From: Public Policy Law360
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2016 5:32 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: Seattle Mulls Delay Of Landmark Uber Driver Union Law

PUBLIC POLICY

Monday, August 8, 2016

TOP NEWS

Seattle Mulls Delay Of Landmark Uber Driver Union Law

The city of Seattle told a federal judge Thursday that it may delay by six months implementing a new ordinance allowing Uber and Lyft drivers to unionize, saying that could affect whether the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's antitrust challenge to the first-of-its-kind ordinance should be dismissed.

New Audit Rule Limits Tax Discharges By Partnerships

A new rule forcing partnerships to declare they won't voluntarily file for bankruptcy as a prerequisite for electing a revamped tax audit regime is being billed by experts as an unexpected move by the Internal Revenue Service to prevent the new regime from being abused to avoid tax liabilities.

EPA Won't Review Power Plant Startup-Shutdown Regs

LAW FIRMS
Addleshaw Goddard
Akerman
Akin Gump
Allison MacKenzie
Alston & Bird
Altshuler Berzon
Arnold & Porter
Berwin Leighton
Bird & Bird
Carroll Burdick
Constantine Cannon
Cravath Swaine
Crowell & Moring
DLA Piper
Davis Wright Tremaine
Dykema Gossett PLLC
Earthjustice
Edwards Wildman
Eversheds LLP
Faegre Baker

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday denied a petition by environmental groups to reconsider changes to the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule that give power plants a little more leeway when starting up or shutting down.

Pa. AG Loses State Supreme Court Bid To Nix Criminal Counts

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Friday shot down an emergency petition filed by Attorney General Kathleen Kane seeking to toss criminal charges she is facing over her alleged role in leaking confidential investigative material to the press, clearing the table for a trial next week.

Calif. Lawmakers Want Judicial Discipline Commission Audit

Four California state lawmakers are pressing for an audit of the Commission on Judicial Performance following a recent report that it tossed a majority of the 1,245 complaints it received last year against active and former judges.

ANALYSIS

Trump Aims To Shake Up Trade Negotiating Strategy: Adviser

The U.S. is likely to see a dramatic shift in its trade policy if Donald Trump's offbeat presidential bid comes to fruition, Trump adviser Peter Navarro has told Law360, vowing that the former real estate tycoon's populist-driven campaign message will be ushered straight to the negotiating table.

Massive Gulf Separates Trump And Clinton On Energy Policy

The energy policy gulf between U.S. presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump is nothing short of historic, leaving the fate of sweeping regulatory initiatives, such as the Clean Power Plan,

Fish & Richardson
Foley & Lardner
Freeborn & Peters
Freshfields
Gibson Dunn
Greenberg Traurig
Hogan Lovells
Holland & Knight
Hunton & Williams
Husch Blackwell
Irell & Manella
Jackson Walker
Jones Day
K&L Gates
Kaye Scholer
Kilpatrick Townsend
Kirkland & Ellis
Klarquist Sparkman
Kobre & Kim
Latham & Watkins
Lerman Senter
Lewis Roca
Locke Lord
Mayer Brown
McCalla Raymer
Morgan Lewis
Morrison & Foerster
Pepper Hamilton
Pietragallo Gordon
Quinn Emanuel
Sedgwick LLP
Sidley Austin
Simmons & Simmons
Skadden
Squire Patton Boggs
Stoel Rives
Strasburger & Price
Stroock & Stroock

hanging in the balance when voters go to the polls this November, policy experts say.

Amtrak's STB Preference Win Tees Up Legal Challenges

The Surface Transportation Board= 2s recent decision confirming that Amtrak has the right of way over cargo traffic on the nation's railways is a major win for the passenger railroad, but experts say it will set off even more battles with freight railroads concerning train delays on limited track.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

Greens Urge Judge Not To Toss Aircraft Emissions Suit

Two environmental groups on Friday asked a D.C. federal judge not to dismiss their lawsuit to force the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate long-awaited carbon emissions standards for aircraft.

FERC Commissioner Clark Stepping Down Next Month

Tony Clark, the sole Republican on the currently four-member Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and whose term at the commission expired June 30, said he would step down following FERC's September monthly meeting.

EPA Risk Management Rule May Help Terrorists, AGs Say

Eleven attorneys general have asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider its recently proposed changes to a chemical facility risk management program rule, saying some public disclosure requirements could assist terrorists in planning attacks.

Nevada Top Court Strikes 'Misleading' Solar Ballot Measure

The Nevada Supreme Court has struck down a ballot measure that would have eliminated a new tariff on rooftop solar customers, finding

Taylor English
Taylor Wessing
Thompson & Knight
Weil Gotshal
White & Case
Winston & Strawn
Wolf Greenfield
von Briesen

COMPANIES

AAR Corporation
Allergan PLC
Altman Weil Inc.
American Beverage Association
American Society Of Composers Authors & Publishers
Association of American Railroads
Bank of America Corporation
Blackboard Inc.
CTIA
Center for Biological Diversity Inc.
Cox Communications Inc.
Edison Electric Institute Inc.
Fluor Corporation
Friedman LLP
Golden State Warriors
Google Inc.
Guitar Center Inc.
Halliburton Company
Henkel AG & Co.
Intellectual Ventures
International Business Machines Corporation
Janus Capital Group Inc.
LinkedIn Corp.
Lyft Inc.
Madison Dearborn Partners LLC
Microsoft Corporation
NVIDIA Corporation

the measure's description was "not only inaccurate and misleading, but also argumentative."

HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES

Genetically Modified Mosquitoes' Trial Run Inches Closer

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Friday denied two citizen petitions asking the agency to conduct further environmental analysis for a proposed Florida Keys field trial of a genetically engineered mosquito designed with the aim of combating Zika and other diseases, saying that it has done all it must do.

EMPLOYMENT

Houston Schools' Chief Auditor Files Whistleblower Suit

The former chief audit executive of Houston Independent School District who was suspended with pay in March and told to come back to work this week filed a whistleblower lawsuit against the school district Friday in state court in Houston, arguing he was fired for pointing out violations of law he uncovered.

Bangladesh Garment Sector Still Needs Labor Reforms: EU

The government of Bangladesh has taken positive steps to improve labor conditions in the wake of a 2013 garment factory collapse that killed more than 1,000 workers, but there is still considerable work to be done, according to a European Union report issued Friday.

COMPETITION

Menendez Pal Defends Fla. Bid To Ditch Prosecution's Experts

The Florida eye doctor accused of bribing U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., defended a motion in a separate Medicare fraud case to exclude testimony by the government's newly introduced witnesses, arguing Friday in Florida

National Association of Broadcasters
National Railroad Passenger Corporation
Oracle Corporation
PPR
Pacira Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Pfizer Inc.
Philip Morris USA Inc.
Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd.
Sierra Club
Spotify Technology SA
State Bar of California
StubHub Inc.
Symantec Corporation
Ticketmaster Entertainment, Inc.
Turner Broadcasting System Inc.
Twitter Inc.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Uber Technologies Inc.
United States Soccer Federation Inc.
United Technologies Corporation
VirnetX Holding Corporation
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.
Welch Consulting
Zeughauser Group LLC

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Army Corps of Engineers
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Industry and Security
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Council on Environmental Quality
Department of Commerce
European Commission
Executive Office of the President
Federal Aviation Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation

federal court that the vast expansion of the case so close to his upcoming trial renders him substantially prejudiced.

PRIVACY & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Baylor U. Wants Title IX Sex Assault Suit Tossed

Baylor University, its former head football coach Art Briles and its former athletic director Ian McCaw are continuing a campaign to have a Title IX lawsuit brought against them by a woman who was raped by a former football player dismissed, arguing the claims were made too late.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

White House Unveils Plan To Cut Federal Mobile Spending

The White House Office of Management and Budget announced a new policy Thursday intended to streamline and improve purchasing of mobile devices and services by federal agencies, seeking to cut down on the $1 billion in related federal spending each year.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Tax Reform Advocates Bash Republicans' Anti-TPP Effort

The National Taxpayers Union has issued a stern rebuke to a group of Republican lawmakers who have urged the White House to hold off on pushing for a vote on the Trans-Pacific Partnership this year, downplaying the lawmakers' fears over currency manipulation and calling the effort "irresponsible."

Feds Restrict Exports Of Nuke Isotope Equipment

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced Friday it is adding equipment used to make an isotope that boosts the yield of nuclear weapons to its list of restricted export items.

Federal Communications Commission

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Federal Railroad Administration

Federal Trade Commission

Food and Drug Administration

Internal Revenue Service

International Trade Commission

NAFTA

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Pinoleville Pomo Nation

San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART)

Securities and Exchange Commission

Surface Transportation Board

U.S. Attorney's Office

U.S. Copyright Office

U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Department of the Treasury

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. General Services Administration

U.S. Senate

U.S. Supreme Court

Wage and Hour Division

No Ruling On S. Korea's Nuke Disaster Safeguards Till 2017

A World Trade Organization dispute settlement panel said Friday that it will not be able to render a decision on the legality of South Korea's restrictions on Japanese food products following a 2011 nuclear disaster until June 2017.

TAX

DC Circ. Revives Tea Party Lawsuits Against IRS

The D.C. Circuit partially restored a pair of lawsuits brought by several conservative advocacy organizations accusing the IRS of targeting them for additional scrutiny, finding Friday that the government had not taken enough steps to address its "admittedly improper" discriminatory criteria.

BANKRUPTCY

Ex-Fla. City Officials Charged In Bribery Scheme

Federal prosecutors charged two former city officials of nearly bankrupt Opa-Locka, Florida, with participating in a two-year-long scheme in which they demanded bribes from business and individuals in exchange for help with permits and other official business with the city.

IMMIGRATION

Backpage Must Comply With Senate Subpoena On Online Ads

Online advertising site Backpage.com must produce documents detailing how it reviews advertisements in its adult section and flags user accounts, after a District of Columbia federal judge ordered it on Friday to comply with a U.S. Senate subpoena in an investigation of sex trafficking.

NATIVE AMERICAN

EPA Presses To Slim Down Maine's Tribal Water Row

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continued to press a federal court Thursday to pare down Maine's suit to compel the agency to recognize the state's authority over tribal waters, saying the court lacks jurisdiction over a Clean Water Act claim

Proposed Tribe Claims BIA Failed To Call For Election

The proposed Ukiah Valley Pomo Indian Tribe lobbed a complaint against the Bureau of Indian Affairs in a California federal court Thursday, accusing the government of violating the Indian Reorganization Act by refusing to allow the group to vote on organizing as a half-blood Native American tribe.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FCC Grants School Emergency, Utility Exceptions To Robocalls

The Federal Communications Commission clarified on Thursday the scope of consent required from consumers before schools or utility companies can send automated text messages and robocalls to wireless numbers, saying such communication during emergency situations and service notices doesn't break the law.

Broadcast Standard Concerns 'Unfounded,' NAB Says

The National Association of Broadcasters pushed back Thursday against concerns about a proposed broadcast television standard's effect on wireless communication interests, telling the Federal Communications Commission the new means of signal transmission will not interfere with spectrum licenses purchased in the incentive auction.

EXPERT ANALYSIS

FDA Claims Jurisdiction Over All Tobacco Products

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's new rule regulating all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, has been met with significant pushback by the industry. But all court proceedings remain pending and until a court or the FDA says differently, the new rule will take effect as scheduled, on Aug. 8, 2016, says Paul Cicelski at Lerman Senter PLLC.

5th Circ. Haze Ruling May Cloud Clean Air Act Litigation

The Fifth Circuit, in State of Texas v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, recently issued an important decision on venue and jurisdiction in challenges to EPA rules promulgated under the Clean Air Act. However, the issues addressed in the court's ruling potentially have ramifications beyond this litigation and could also affect other suits under different provisions of the CAA, say attorneys at Jackson Walker LLP.

It's Time To Loosen The Limitations On BDC Investors

Business development companies face challenges raising money due to a quirk in the federal securities laws that limits how much mutual funds can invest in them. But if participants in the capital markets raise their voices, there is some hope that the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission will ease the restriction, says Kelley Howes, of counsel at Morrison & Foerster LLP and former general counsel of Janus Capital Group Inc.

Song Stays Pretty Much The Same For ASCAP, BMI

The U.S. Department of Justice's decision to keep the core of the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees intact sidesteps a closely watched, hotly contested issue that has captured the eyes, ears and keyboards of music industry titans and digital music entrepreneurs alike —

whether to permit "partial withdrawals," says Daniel Vitelli of Constantine Cannon LLP.

5 Open Questions On Risk Retention

Almost two years have passed since final rules for asset-backed securities risk retention were released. However, a number of important questions regarding the scope of the rules and the ways in which they can be complied with still lack definitive answers, says Ariel Kronman of Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP.

9 Tips For Becoming A Legal Pundit In The Media

Have you ever been reading your morning paper or watching the nightly news, and found yourself wondering, "How did that lawyer get on TV? I could do that." If you've decided you want to start putting yourself or your law firm in the public light but feel at a loss about how to start, there are several steps you can take to get noticed, says Annie Scranton at Pace Public Relations.

LEGAL INDUSTRY

Litigation Powerhouse: Latham & Watkins

Its deft handling of complex litigation matters across a broad range of practice areas has primed Latham & Watkins LLP as the turn-to firm for the likes of such established names as Oracle Corp., Cox Communications and the United States Soccer Federation this past year, placing it among Law360's Litigation Powerhouses.

3 Ways Firms Got A Leg Up In The First Half Of 2016

In today's cutthroat legal market, law firms have to be creative to get ahead, ushering in a new era where old-school ideas and traditions are eschewed and innovation is imperative. Here are three big changes firms have made in 2016 to get a leg up on the competition.

3 UK Firms Hit Attys With Pay Freezes, Layoffs Over Brexit

Attorneys with London-based firms Simmons & Simmons, Addleshaw Goddard and Gowling WLG got some unpleasant news this week in the form of pay freezes and layoffs as a result of the uncertainty facing the legal profession in Britain since the country voted to leave the European Union.

Legal Sector Still Lethargic, Loses 200 Jobs In July

Legal sector jobs in the U.S. continue to stagnate, with employment in legal services declining slightly in July following a monthslong plateau, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly jobs report, released on Friday.

9th Circ.'s Kozinski Slams Calif. AG For Overlong Brief

Ninth Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski took a hard line on too-long briefs on Thursday, saying in a fiery dissent accompanying an otherwise routine order allowing California's attorney general to file an oversized brief that submitting verbose papers has become a "common and rather lamentable practice."

GC Cheat Sheet: The Hottest Corporate News Of The Week

The Chamber of Commerce sues over rules that discourage corporate inversions; the government looks into security measures for Fitbits and Nest thermostats; and Subway, dogged by franchisees' wage-and-hour violations, teams up with the U.S. Department of Labor for an education push. Those stories top the corporate legal news you may have missed last week.

In Case You Missed It: Hottest Firms And Stories On Law360

For those who missed out, here's a look back at the law firms, stories and expert analyses that generated the most buzz on Law360 last week.

JOBS
Search full listings or advertise your job opening =

From: Ohio Coalition for Quality Education
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2017 6:05 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: Constellation Schools - families Sign Up for parent organiztaion

= A

Leadership for Public Charter Schools

OHIO COALITION FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

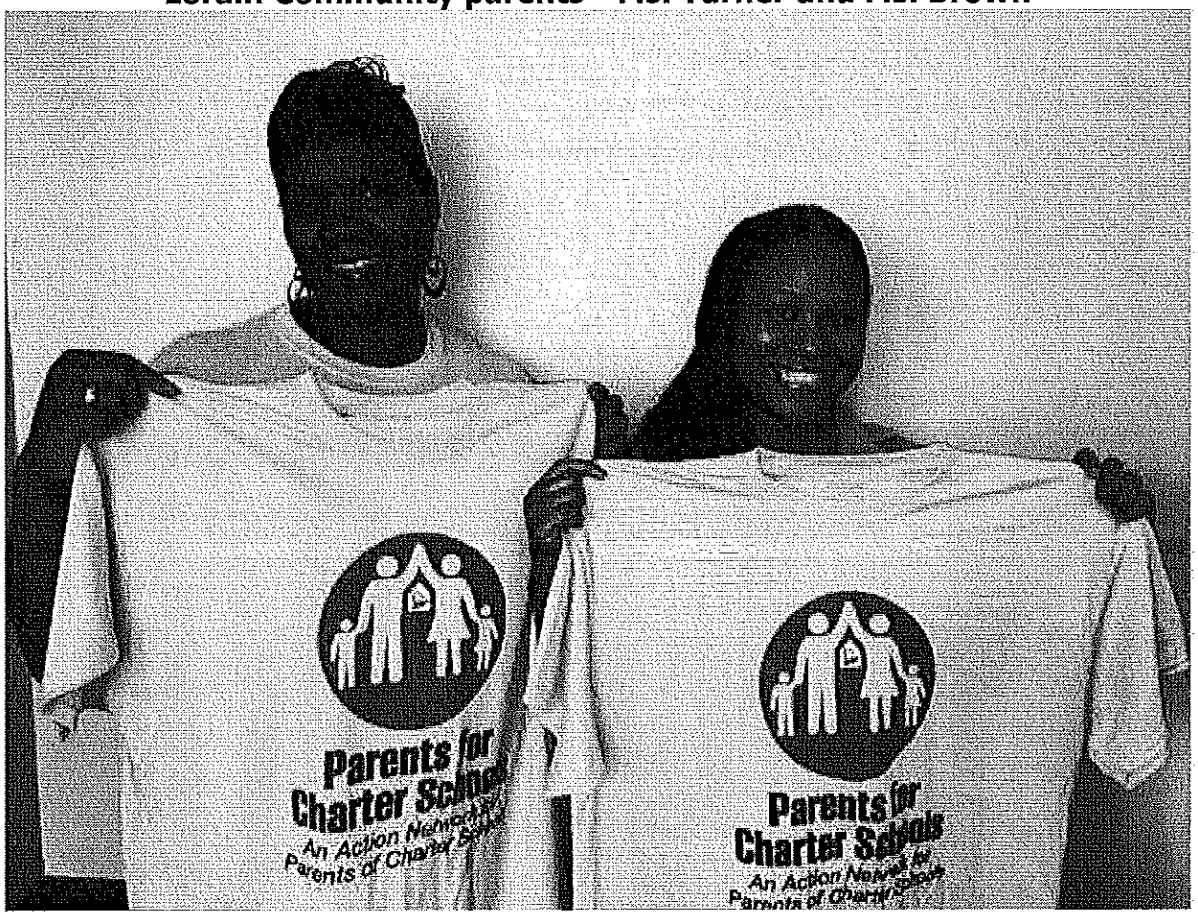
PROVIDING OVER 10 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

Constellation Schools - parents 'sign up' for Parents for Charter Schools

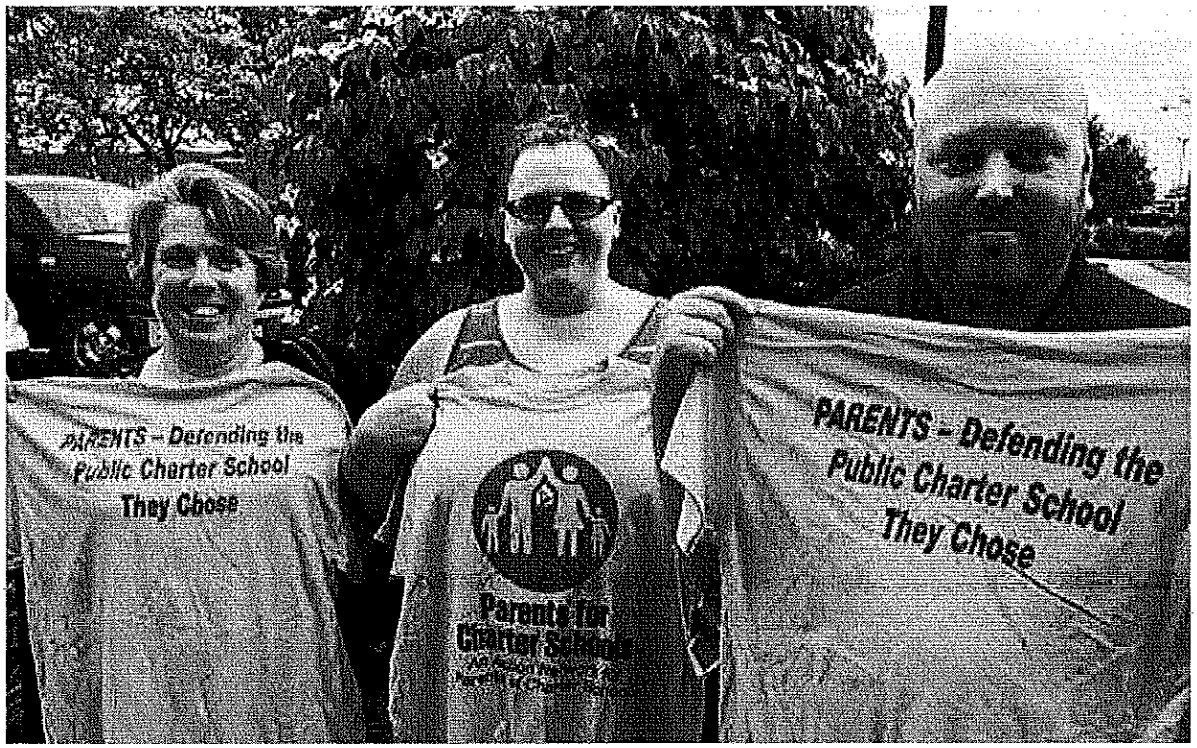
Constellation Schools is a premier management company of 21 outstanding public charter schools, all located within the greater Cleveland area. More parents want to defend their child's education and protect the public charter school that they chose. That's why they are signing up for - Parents for Charter Schools.

www.parents-charters.org

Lorain Community parents - Ms. Turner and Ms. Brown



Elyria Community parents - Ms. Janus, Ms. Hillbery and Mr. Wall



Each parent told their story about why they chose their Constellation School and why they feel passionate about their charter school. And they all gave the same reasons:

* They love the small class sizes
* The principal knows the names of every student
* Their charter school offers a safe environment for their child
* They love that parents are welcome in their charter school
* They truly appreciate the character development that their charter school offers
* Their child is excelling and are so happy at their charter school

Rebecca L. Keeney, Executive Director of Constellation Schools said, "All of us are so pleased that our parents are engaging with this new parent organization. We know that parents are the core of our charter schools and their voice can be a powerful force for their child's education."

Parents for Charter Schools Welcomes Constellation Schools Parents!

June 8, 2017

=A

=A

Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, 1808 Sulky Trail, Miamisburg, OH 45342

From: Max Behlke
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2017 6:01 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: NCS Capitol to Capitol: Congress Shifts to Tax Reform

CapitoltoCapitol

NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

Oct. 2, 2017

Congress Shifts to Tax Reform

On Sept. 27, Trump and the "Big Six"= 7 which includes Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas), Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn

— released their "unified framework" for overhauling the U.S. tax code. The nine-page document will serve as a starting point for tax writers in both the House and the Senate to hash out the rest of the details.

But before it fleshes out the details of tax reform, Congress will need to pass a budget resolution that includes tax reform instructions so that it can then use budget reconciliation for tax reform. Budget reconciliation is a legislative maneuver that allows the majority in the Senate to bypass the filibuster process, allowing them to pass legislation with 51 votes, instead of the normal 60. The House is expected to vote on its FY 2018 budget on Thursday. In the Senate, the full Budget Committee is expected to mark up its budget plan, which is quite different than the House bill, later this week.

Concerning tax reform, the Senate budget would allow tax writers to add as much as $1.5 trillion to the deficit over 10 years, but the House budget would not allow a tax plan to add to the deficit. This is just one of several differences that the two chambers will have to reconcile before moving forward on a tax package. Budget aside, the White House is optimistic for a tax plan to move quickly through Congress. "We would hope to be in the Senate in November," Cohn told reporters last week. "And we would hope to have a bill done by this year."
= A

Meanwhile, the administration and GOP leaders will need to package this plan and sell it to the public as tax relief for the middle class and not a windfall for the wealthiest Americans if they want the reform to make it across the finish line. They will also need to secure the necessary votes in the Senate, which is anything but assured given that the slim Republican majority can ill-afford to lose votes of support.

In sum, enacting a tax plan this year might be overly optimistic given the tight congressional calendar and lack of agreement on key policy details. While Republicans are desperate for a win and a legislative victory, tax reform is by no means an easy feat and the process may continue well into 2018.

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke; Jake Lestock

NCSL Urges Preservation of the SALT Deduction

On Sept. 27, NCSL released the following statement regarding the tax reform framework:

As a central tenet of tax reform is to provide tax relief for the middle class, NCSL is dismayed that the released framework will eliminate a deduction that is vital to middle class taxpayers, the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction. The SALT deduction has existed in the federal tax code since its inception, which coincidentally was also when the federal tax code was at its simplest, because federal tax writers were cognizant to not tax an individual's income twice.

Eliminating this deduction will lead to higher tax burdens for tens of millions of middle class taxpayers of every political affiliation, an outcome contrary to the stated goal of providing meaningful relief to taxpayers. The elimination of the SALT deduction also impedes the ability of states to invest in infrastructure, fund education, and provide the vital public services that Americans expect from their state and local governments.

Ensuring that the incomes of American workers are not taxed twice hardly counts as a special interest tax break or loophole that needs to be closed. NCSL strongly supports preservation of the SALT deduction and opposes any attempt to harm middle class taxpayers and their communities.

Protect state taxpayers. Protect local decision making. Protect SALT.

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke; Jake Lestock

= A

DYK? The Coinage Act of 1792 established the U.S. Mint, created the dollar as the nation's standard unit of money, and regulated the country's coinage. Specifically, the law specified that $10, $5 and $2.50 coins (known as eagles, half-eagles and quarter-eagles) were to be made of their face value in gold, while the dollar, half-dollar, quarter-dollar, dime and half-dime coins were to be made of their value in silver. Criminals found that they could make a profit by filing shavings from the sides of gold and silver coins, and selling it. It did not take long for the U.S. Mint to begin adding ridges to the coins' edges, a process called "reeding," to make it impossible to shave them down without the result being obvious. As a side benefit, the reeded edges make counterfeiting more difficult.

SCOTUS Gerrymandering Case Could Reshape American Politics

"There is only one prediction that is entirely safe about the upcoming term, and that is it will be momentous."
- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sept. 20, 2017

Today, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) returns for what could be one of the most consequential terms of the court in recent memory. In addition to cases on immigration, religious freedom, and privacy already on the docket, it will hear oral arguments in a case about partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin, where a federal court in November 2016 struck down a legislative map for being too partisan. In *Gill v. Whitford,* a panel of three federal judges ruled that the Wisconsin State Assembly map adopted in 2011 violated the First and 14th Amendments to the Constitution. If the court ultimately rules against the plaintiffs, it could mean that no amount of partisan bias could make electoral districts unconstitutional. But on the flipside, if the court sides with the plaintiffs, it could ultimately lead to drastic changes of electoral maps and how state legislatures draw them.

DYK? On this day in...

- **1996:** President Bill Clinton signed the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments (E-FOIA), which required executive branch agencies to make certain types of records, created on or after Nov. 1, 1996, to be made available electronically. The amendments also required agencies to provide electronic reading rooms for citizens to use and extended the response time to FOIA requests from 10 days to 20 business days.
- **1980:** Pennsylvania Congressman Michael Myers became the first member of either chamber of Congress to be expelled since the Civil War, for his involvement in the Abscam scandal. As part of the public corruption investigation, Myers was videotaped accepting a $50,000 bribe from undercover FBI Agents.
- **1967:** Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first African-American justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Senate Releases Bipartisan Autonomous Vehicle Legislation That Pre-empts States

On Sep. 28, Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.), and Senators Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), and Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) unveiled legislation regarding autonomous vehicles—the American Vision for Safer Transportation Through Advancement of Revolutionary Technologies (AV START) Act. The AV START Act is similar to the House passed SELF DRIVE but it also contains several significant differences as well as areas of concerns for states, notably in the areas of pre-emption and safety evaluation reports. The Commerce Committee will consider the legislation at a markup schedule for Oct. 4.

Pre-emption

The Senate committee bill currently includes a pre-emption section identical to that included in the bill passed by the House. Specifically, the language would pre-empt states from regulating the performance of automated driving systems (ADS) as well as any "unreasonable restrictions" concerning registration, licensing, driving education and training, insurance, law enforcement, crash investigations, safety and emissions inspections, congestion management of vehicles on the street with in a state or political subdivision of a state, or traffic on the design, construction, or performance of highly automated vehicles or ADS. **NCSL Urges State Legislators to Contact their Congressional Delegations to Voice their Opposition to the Pre-Emption.**

Additionally, the bill would prohibit a state from issuing licenses for a dedicated highly automated vehicle (DHAV), which the bill defines as a level 4 or 5 automated vehicle, in a way that discriminates against those with disabilities.

A full NCSL analysis of the AV START legislation can be read here.
= A

NCSL Contacts: Ben Husch; Kristen Hildreth

A Deeper Dive on Transportation, Energy, Environment and Agriculture Policy

For those looking for a deep dive on federal Transportation, Energy, Environment and Agriculture topics, please check out the September editions of our Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee's three monthly newsletters:

- Energy & Agriculture Update - latest federal developments influencing agriculture and energy policy
- Environment Update - latest federal developments on environment policy
- Transportation Update - latest federal developments on transportation policy

NCSL Contacts: Ben Husch; Kristen Hildreth

DYK? Russia did not consider beer, or any beverage that contained less than 10 percent alcohol, to be alcoholic until 2011. They previously classified it as a soft drink. The new restrictions were signed off by then President Dmitry Medvedev as part of an attempt to counter alcohol abuse, which he earlier called a "national calamity."

Supreme Court Will Hear Far-Reaching Union Case

The Supreme Court of the United States agreed on Thursday to hear *Janus v. AFSCME*, a case challenging the legality of union fees that could have serious ramifications for public sector unions. The case revolves around Illinois state employee Mark Janus, who contends the requirement that he pay union fees to the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) violates his free speech rights. The justices considered this issue once before, when the Court took up *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* last year. That case was brought by a California teacher, Rebecca Friedrichs, and resulted in a 4-4 deadlock following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Should the justices vote the same way, Neil Gorsuch will be in a position to offer the final tie-breaking vote.

NCSL Contacts: Joan Wodiska, Lucia Bragg

Trump Signs Hurricane Relief Legislation for Schools, Issues Hurricane Relief Guidance

= A

The president signed S. 1866 into law on Friday after the bill passed through Congress last week. The bill offers various forms of support for schools and colleges impacted by the recent hurricanes. Specifically, the law:

- Allows the U.S. Department of Education to waive a requirement that higher education institutions contribute matching funds as part of the Federal Work Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant programs.
- Redistributes the unused funds in those programs to colleges affected by the hurricanes.
- Provides access for private schools to funds available under the Project School Emergency Response to Violence program.

The law comes on the heels of new non-regulatory hurricane relief guidance, issued by the department on Sept. 22. The guidance identifies areas of federal law that are subject to flexibility and waivers for grantees and program participants impacted by natural disasters. The guidance focuses on support and flexibility options available to schools, state educational agencies, state lead agencies, local educational agencies, local early intervention service programs and providers, State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-funded schools, Tribes, and postsecondary institutions with a focus on the 2017 hurricanes. The department will hold a webinar discussing the details of the guidance on Thursday, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. ET. Interested participants may register here.

NCSL Contacts: Joan Wodiska, Lucia Bragg

HHS Secretary Pays Price for Travel

On Friday, Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price resigned for his use of private charter and military jets to travel around the country at taxpayer expense. Don Wright, a longtime U. S. Health and Human Services (HHS) career employee, doctor and public health expert was named acting HHS secretary Friday following Price's resignation. Soon after Price stepped down, Washington began speculating about possible candidates for his replacement, including:

- Scott Gottlieb, the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration
- Seema Verma, the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- David Shulkin, the secretary of veterans affairs
- Former Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal
- Florida Governor Rick Scott

NCSL Contact: Haley Nicholson

Also of Note...

Federal Funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which covers 9 million children, expired on Sept. 30. If Congress does not act, the Kaiser Family Foundation expects 10 states to run out of money for the program by the end of the year, and 21 states will be out of money by March 2018.

NCSL Contact: Haley Nicholson

The National Flood Insurance Program, a federal program that aims to provide affordable flood insurance to property owners, has depleted its borrowing authority after a series of devastating hurricanes over the past several weeks. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which runs the program, notified Congress on Sept. 20 that it borrowed $5.8 billion from the Treasury to fund losses this year, including those incurred by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and "anticipated programmatic activities." The balance of FEMA's remaining borrowing authority is now zero, according to the agency.

NCSL Contact: Ethan Wilson

Read the Sept. 25, 2017, Capitol-to-Capitol.

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact Max Behlke.

Read More

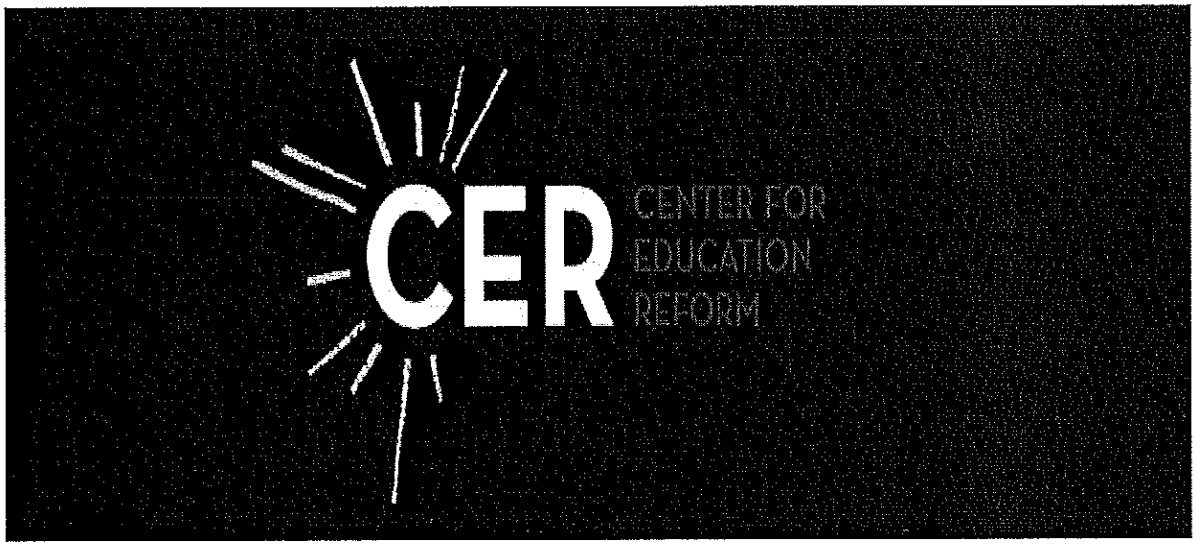
Capitol to Capitol is a publication of the National Conference of State Legislatures. NCSL is recognized as a formidable lobbying force in Washington, D.C. NCSL works to protect states from unfunded federal mandates and unwarranted federal pre-emption of state authority, and seeks to provide state legislatures the flexibility they need to innovate and be responsive to the unique needs of their residents. NCSL's advocacy is guided by the policy directives and resolutions adopted during NCSL's Legislative Summit.

Denver: 303-364-7700

Washington: 202-624-5400

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

No Images? Click here



October 4, 2017

Memo to Reporters

From: Jeanne Allen, founder & CEO, the Center for Education Reform

Re: U.S. Supreme Court case holds promise for teacher freedoms

Leaders of organizations and schools across the education reform arena are enthusiastic that on Thursday, September 28, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) agreed to hear arguments in *Janus v. AFSCFME*. The case was brought forth by Mark Janus, an Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services public employee who believes that forced unionism and the mandatory paying of fees violates his First Amendment rights. A favorable outcome in *Janus* could pave the way for a loosening on the stranglehold of other public sector employees compelled to pay mandatory union fees. Public school teachers, in particular, stand to benefit from the freedom that would allow them to make their own decisions as to whether or not they pay union dues and fees.

TOP 5 TAKEAWAYS IF SCOTUS RULES IN FAVOR OF *JANUS:*

- Free millions of workers – public school teachers included ? 3 from compelled association—a clear violation of the First Amendment
- Millions of workers will no longer be compelled to pay union fees when opting out of union representation
- In addition to more take-home pay, teachers will have more freedom to innovate when opting out of mandated association with teachers' unions
- A pro-Janus ruling will have no impact on the ability for unions to organize and function
- The union-employee relationship should improve as unions will demonstrate their value to existing and future members

The case has been winding its way through Federal courts since early 2015 and was stayed pending an outcome in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, a case that was deadlocked 4-4 after the tragic passing of Justice Antonin Scalia. While the *Janus* case was initially dismissed by U.S. District Court after that *Friedrichs* ruling, the employees, backed by the National Right to Work Foundation, appealed to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in October 2016 which, as expected, upheld the lower court's decision – paving the way for an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. On June 6, 2017, a petition for Writ of Certiorari was filed and later accepted by SCOTUS. Now the 40-year old ruling in *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* which created the current system allowing mandatory fees paid to public unions could very well be overturned.

It's important to note that the case started with an executive order issued by Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, who sought to abolish mandatory collective bargaining pending review of its constitutionality. Since 2012, six states have passed laws strengthening workers' rights and freedom from having to pay

mandatory union fees. What is most notable is at least three of these states are "blue-to-purple" states with historic ties to organized labor, including Michigan, Wisconsin and West Virginia. Following these laws, teachers' union membership dropped 20% in Michigan and 58% in Wisconsin. More state policymakers throughout the country are focused on the upcoming *Janus* case review. With teachers' union-driven pension rules and union-backed laws that protect uniform pay scales, eschew performance pay and mandate teacher tenure, the elimination of mandatory fees could impact the unions' ability to wage political battles to defend their turf and oppose proposals that put student achievement and parental choice at the center of every education improvement effort.

CER believes that the *Janus* case holds great potential for employees and could dramatically improve union-employee relationships. Overturning *Abood* will allow for teachers to associate as they see fit, providing teachers more freedom and independence to better serve their students. This will not bar union organizing but ensure unions prove their value to each member. Unions should celebrate the opportunity to prove their value to employees rather than relying on mandatory fees.

Instead, it is evident by the recent teachers' union attacks on education reform that the unions fear the freedom *Janus* may bring to teachers, particularly as their funds are declining. Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the nation's second-largest teachers' union, has also scoffed at the idea that teachers are entitled to the same First Amendment rights as other employees.

Historically, public support for mandatory agency fees is low, and most Americans are unaware that teachers are pressured to join unions and forced to pay union fees even when they decline to join. A June 2017 survey by Education Next found that teachers oppose mandatory fees 47% to 44%, while the general public is 44% to 37% opposed.

As the public's attention turns to *Janus v. AFSCME,* it is important to note that this case is bigger than one public employee or one union – this case could improve

the learning experience for students by dramatically empowering teachers nationwide, and change the course of American education.

Members of the media interested in writing about this in any aspect, CER's team can provide insights and commentary, and connect reporters with parents, teachers and those on the ground who will be most affected by the outcome of the case.

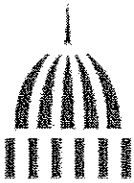
MEDIA CONTACT: Tim Sullivan, *Chief Communications Officer*
tim@edreform.com | **(443) 532-2445**

Founded in 1993, the Center for Education Reform aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans – particularly our youth – ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.

@edreform | edreform.com

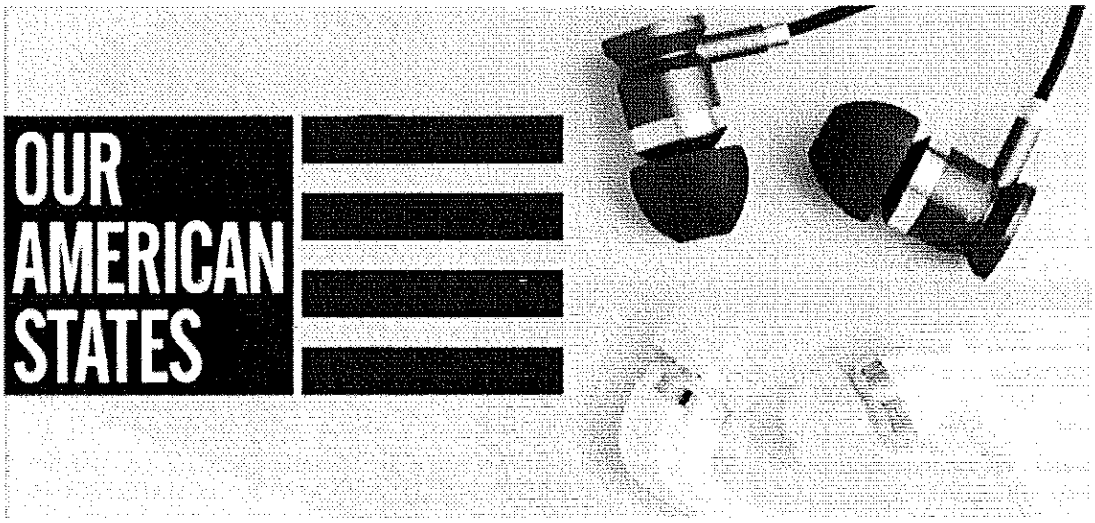
The Center for Education Reform
1901 L Street, NW, Suite 705
Washington, DC 20036

From: NCSL's Our American States
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 4:29 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Five U.S. Supreme Court cases to watch this term



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

U.S. Supreme Court Cases to Watch This Term



Five cases that the U.S. Supreme Court has put on its docket for the current term could have a significant impact on states. State legislatures are waiting for decisions on these cases, and could

Don't miss these past episodes of Our American States:

cause them to change state laws depending on how the court rules. And a potentially explosive sixth case is waiting in the wings.

Our guests this episode are **Lisa Soronen,** executive director of the State and Local Legal Center, and **Susan Frederick,** senior federal affairs counsel at NCSL.

The cases we examine are:

- *Gill v. Whitford*, a Wisconsin case in which the court may decide whether partisan gerrymandering is unconstitutional.
- *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, looks at whether Colorado's public accommodations law violates a cake artist's First Amendment free speech and free exercise rights.
- *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees* the court will address whether unions can collect dues from nonmembers.
- *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute* looks at Ohio's procedures to remove voters from their rolls after four years of inactivity.
- *Christie v. National Collegiate Athletic Association* may decide how far Congress can regulate states and localities in the absence of comprehensive federal regulation.

And, as a bonus, we'll discuss what could happen if the court accepts a South Dakota case that could overturn the 1992 *Quill Corp v North Dakota*, which said states could not force business to collect sales or use taxes unless it has a physical presence in a state.

The Role of States and Governments in Natural Disasters

Cybersecurity: It's More Than Elections

School Buses; Safety and Seat Belts

Federalism: The "Hamilton" State Legislative Mix Tape

Listen Now

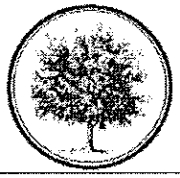
Our American States is where you hear compelling conversations that tell the story of America's state legislatures, the people in them, the politics that drive them, and the important work of democracy. Subscribe in iTunes, Google Play or your favorite podcast app.

Denver: 303-364-7700
Washington: 202-624-5400

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 5:32 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Buckeye President Robert Alt in Forbes: American Workers Deserve Voting Rights

=A



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

=A

In between the numerous "**Giving Tuesday**" emails you have likely received today, we hope you will take a minute to read Robert Alt's compelling **piece in Forbes**.

In the article, Robert argues that we need to change our laws in order to empower public-sector workers with the voting rights they deserve.

Who among us believes it is fair that these workers are being denied the right to vote and the ability to have a voice or a choice on which union represents them? Not your Buckeye Institute. We stand solidly in favor of **Worker Voting Rights** and believe workers deserve a voice and a choice in their representation.
=A

Buckeye President & CEO Robert Alt has been featured on more than 70 radio shows across the country in the past few months talking about Buckeye's Worker Voting Rights project, which is quickly gaining momentum, earning media attention, and catalyzing action.

As Robert describes in the Forbes piece in more detail (see below for the full article or **click through to Forbes directly**), the time has come and the time is right now for Worker Voting Rights.

= A

Forbes

It's Time For Public Sector Workers To Be Given A Voice And Choice

Forbes
By Robert Alt
November 27, 2017

Early next year, the Supreme Court will hear *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*. Mark Janus is a child support specialist at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Service who objects to paying union fees, which are currently a condition of his employment. He argues that the compulsory fees force him to speak through his union in ways that violate his First Amendment rights.

If Mr. Janus prevails, he and other public-sector employees will be able to choose whether or not to pay union dues or fees without threat of being fired, which would be a tremendous victory for workers. However, even if Mr. Janus wins in court, public sector union members will still have no say regarding which union represents their bargaining unit.

Every morning, hardworking men and women in every state drink their coffee and diligently go to work on our behalf -- in our neighborhoods as public school teachers, home care workers, engineers, and in agencies protecting the environment. Unfortunately, while these civic-minded professionals go to work for us, the labor unions

that they must join in order to teach our children or serve our communities do not always work for them.

Once a public-sector union is certified, it remains the workers' representative -- potentially forever. In Ohio, for example, the Columbus Education Association has represented Columbus public school teachers since 1968 -- back when the Beatles were still together and before many of today's teachers were even born.

Heirloom unions inherited from the Nixon-era are depriving today's public workers and civil servants of any meaningful voice or choice in their workplace. Ninety-four percent of union workers have **never had the chance to vote for or against their unions** -- and still won't even if Janus succeeds in his case.

When a public-sector union fails to address employee complaints or misspends union dues, there is no ballot to cast for change. Instead, public employees remain stuck with the hand-me-down unions that workers who wore bell-bottoms chose for them.

There is a solution.

With worker voting rights, public employees would have regular elections to encourage their unions to be more responsive to their members' interests. Worker voting rights gives union workers an opportunity to be heard, to voice their concerns to their union leaders, to better understand how their union dues are spent, and to choose for themselves whether to keep the union they have, vote their union out, or vote in a better union. Worker voting rights would incentivize union leaders to cultivate broader support among the workforce they represent and to be accountable to their rank-and-file members. Not surprisingly, 82% of unionized Americans **favor holding periodic votes on their union representation.**

Once-and-for-all unions that rarely -- if ever -- face re-election have no worry of being fired by their members for poor performance or disregarding members' concerns. In states that require workers to pay "fair share" fees as a condition of employment, union leadership failure has next to no consequences, because whether the union negotiates better working conditions for its members or not, whether it spends union dues wisely or not, whether it meets the needs of its members or not, there is almost nothing public employees can do to replace or remove the poorly performing union. Even if these public employees are dissatisfied with their representation, they have to continue paying their union dues or fair share fees, or else their employment can be legally terminated.

Public-sector unions and their insulated union officials know and count on this questionable practice of denying their members voting rights, allowing unions that are not taking care of their members to remain firmly entrenched regardless of their members' satisfaction. But state lawmakers can guarantee worker voting rights for public employees by providing for regular elections by law.

Unions have played a significant role in America's workforce for well over a century. But the interests of the unions themselves should never trump the interests of the hardworking men and women these unions represent. Our civil servants and public-sector employees deserve to have their voices heard and their choices matter -- they deserve worker voting rights.

Robert Alt is President & CEO of The Buckeye Institute in Columbus, Ohio.

= A

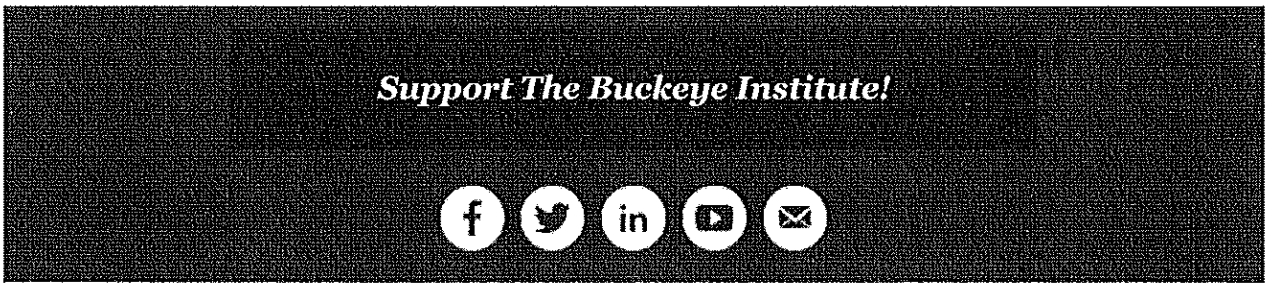
p.s. The Buckeye Institute is receiving gifts today as part of "**Giving Tuesday**" and invite you to consider supporting our work, which is transforming public policy at the state level. Check out our **appeal from last year** for explanation of this online phenomenon and background on how it started, then submit a generous donation to **your favorite policy organization** as you are able.

#GIVING TUESDAY

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

From: Morning Consult
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 9:20 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: Morning Consult Washington, Presented by the Electronic Payments Coalition: Franken to Make Announcement From Senate Floor This Morning
Attachments: ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm

By Eli Yokley

Top Stories

- Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) plans to resign from the Senate following calls from more than half of the Senate Democratic Caucus to quit amid allegations of sexual misconduct, according to an unnamed Democratic official. Franken's office said no final decision has been made, and the Minnesota Democrat plans to make an announcement from the Senate floor this morning. (Star Tribune)

- The House voted 231 to 198 to pass legislation that would let concealed carry license holders conceal a handgun in other states, with opposition from 14 Republicans and support from six Democrats. The measure, a top priority for the National Rifle Association, is strongly opposed by Senate Democrats. (Politico)

- President Donald Trump is set to meet today with Republican and Democratic leaders from the House and Senate to discuss a long-term budget deal as lawmakers prepare to pass a stopgap spending measure to avoid a government shutdown on Saturday. The House is expected to vote today on a bill that would keep the government open through Dec. 22, with the Senate expected to vote on the measure Friday. (Bloomberg)

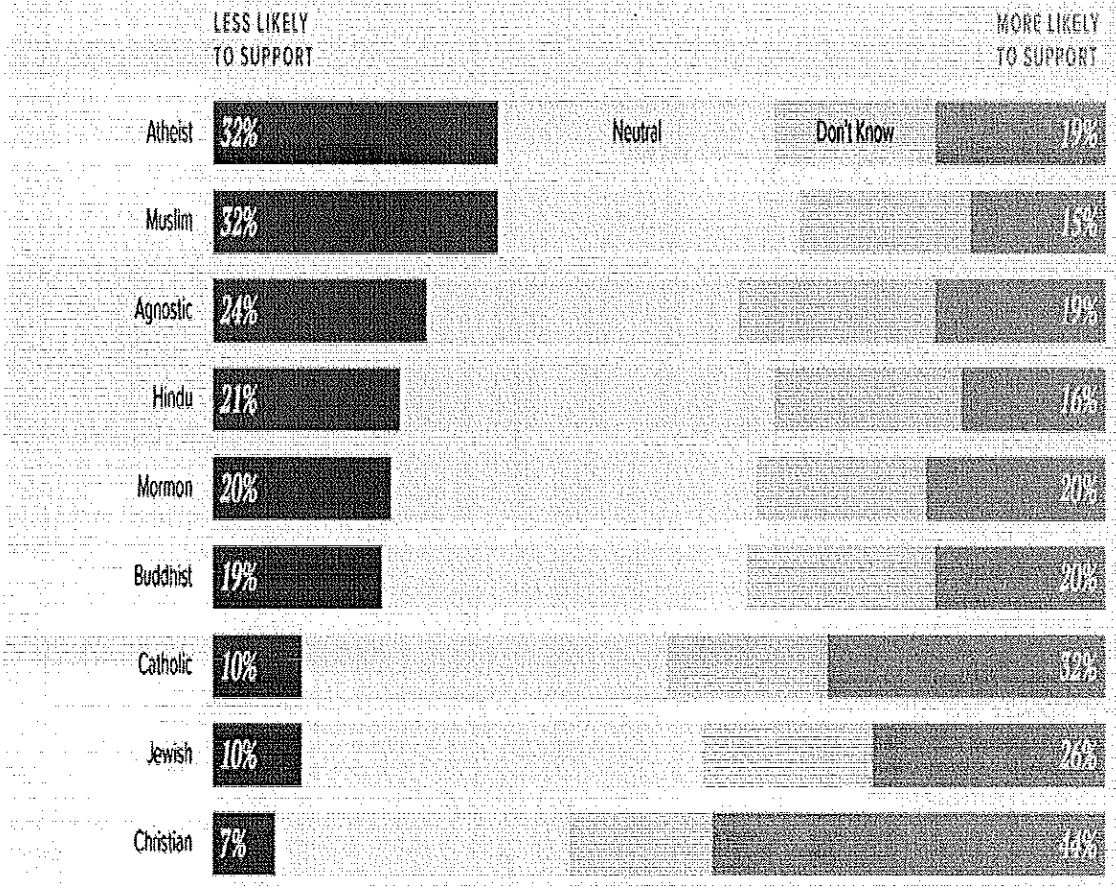
- The Senate voted to begin negotiations with the House on competing bills that would overhaul the federal tax code, with the goal of resolving differences on issue such as deductions for medical expenses and state income taxes. The eight Senate GOP conferees include Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch of Utah, Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi of Wyoming, and Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. (The Wall Street Journal)

Chart Review

Americans Are Skeptical of Muslim, Atheist Candidates, but That Could Change
Morning Consult

Atheists, Muslims Garner Least Support From Americans

Does knowing a candidate who is running for public office has the following background make you more or less likely to vote for them?



MORNING CONSULT

Poll conducted from 11/15-11/19, 2017 among a national sample of 2,800 adults with a MOE of +/-2%.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

THURSDAY

ACCF event on Trump's economic policy agenda	9:30 a.m.
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace event on sanctions for nonproliferation	10 a.m.
Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the Defense Department's acquisition reform efforts	10 a.m.
FBI director testifies before House Judiciary Committee	10 a.m.
CSIS event on OPEC's World Oil Outlook 2017	2 p.m.

FRIDAY

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace event on China and the U.S.-Japan alliance	10:30 a.m.
Trump campaign rally in Pensacola, Fla.	7 p.m.

General

Voters Back Government Shutdown to Renew Health Insurance Program for Kids
Jon Reid, Morning Consult

Two-thirds of voters in a new poll indicated support for shutting down the federal government until Congress reauthorizes the Children's Health Insurance Program, which lawmakers let expire in September amid partisan disagreements over how to pay for a funding extension. With funding for government operations set to expire on Friday absent congressional action, 67 percent of respondents said they support shutting down the government over CHIP, according to a Morning Consult/Politico poll conducted Dec. 1-3.

Flynn Said Russian Sanctions Would Be 'Ripped Up,' Whistle-Blower Says
Mark Mazzetti and Michael S. Schmidt, The New York Times

Michael T. Flynn, President Trump's former national security adviser, told a former business associate that economic sanctions against Russia would be "ripped up" as one of the Trump administration's first acts, according to an account by a whistle-blower made public on Wednesday. Mr. Flynn believed that ending the sanctions could allow a business

project he had once participated in to move forward, according to the whistle-blower.

Republicans hammer Mueller, FBI as Russia investigation intensifies
Devlin Barrett and Sean Sullivan, The Washington Post

Republican activists and lawmakers are engaged in a multi-front attack on special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's probe of possible connections between associates of President Trump and Russian agents, trying to stop or curtail the investigation as it moves further into Trump's inner circle. For months, the president and his allies have been seizing on any whiff of possible impropriety by Mueller's team or the FBI to argue that the Russia probe is stacked against Trump - potentially building the political support needed to dismiss the special counsel.

Presidential

Trump to Meet Democrats With Congress on Track to Avoid Shutdown
Erik Wasson et al., Bloomberg

President Donald Trump will meet with congressional leaders from both parties Thursday to negotiate on a long-term budget deal as Congress prepares to pass a stopgap spending measure to avoid a U.S. government shutdown Saturday. The House is expected to vote on a two-week spending bill to keep the government open through Dec. 22, with Senate action coming by Friday.

U.S. 9th Circuit judges skeptical of Trump's travel ban
Maura Dolan, Los Angeles Times

Two days after the Supreme Court allowed President Trump to enforce his travel ban, a federal appeals court appeared skeptical that it complied with the law. During a hearing in Seattle before a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, a lawyer for the Trump administration

argued the revised ban issued in September was based on careful study and tailored toward specific conditions in various countries.

Trump administration opposes unions in key Supreme Court case
Ian Kullgren, Politico

The Trump administration sided against public employee unions Wednesday evening in a Supreme Court case that could deal the labor movement a crippling financial blow. In a brief submitted in Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, the Office of Solicitor General sided with a child-support specialist for the state of Illinois who's challenging AFSCME's legal right to collect so-called "fair-share fees" from union nonmembers.

Trump Jr. Won't Provide Details of a Call With His Father
Sharon LaFraniere and Nicholas Fandos, The New York Times

Donald Trump Jr. refused on Wednesday to provide a congressional committee details of a July telephone conversation with his father about a meeting last year at which Trump campaign officials had expected to receive damaging information from the Russian government about Hillary Clinton. Testifying in a closed session before the House Intelligence Committee, Mr. Trump claimed that his conversation over the summer with his father, two days after The New York Times disclosed the June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower in Manhattan, was protected under attorney-client privilege because lawyers for both men were on the call.

Haley: 'Open question' if US athletes can attend Olympics in South Korea
Sophie Tatum, CNN

Whether US athletes will be able to attend the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea remains an "open question," US Ambassador to the United

Nations Nikki Haley said Wednesday night. The Winter Olympics are set to be held Feb. 9-25 in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Senate

Sen. Al Franken plans a morning announcement on the Senate floor
Jennifer Brooks et al., Star Tribune

Democratic Party leaders united Wednesday in calling for Sen. Al Franken to resign from the U.S. Senate, an extraordinary rebuke to the Minnesota Democrat as he faced a new allegation of sexual harassment. Franken planned to make an announcement about his future Thursday morning on the Senate floor.

Senate Votes to Begin Tax-Overhaul Negotiations With House
Richard Rubin, The Wall Street Journal

The U.S. Senate voted Wednesday to start formal tax-bill negotiations with the House of Representatives as lawmakers began grappling with the delicate balance they must strike to advance final legislation through both chambers and to the president by Christmas. Republicans are weighing a number of changes that would expand tax cuts and force offsetting adjustments.

Bredesen running for Senate
Cari Wade Gervin, Nashville Post

Former Gov. Phil Bredesen is entering the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate. According to multiple sources, Bredesen began calling major donors this afternoon to confirm that he is in the race.

Indiana GOP Senate candidate voted Democrat until 2012
Brian Slodysko, The Associated Press

A wealthy Indiana Senate candidate who bills himself in television ads as a conservative Republican voted for more than a decade in the state's Democratic primaries, according to public documents obtained by The Associated Press. Records from the Dubois County Clerk's office, where candidate Mike Braun is registered to vote, show the 63-year-old consistently cast Democratic ballots in partisan primary elections until 2012.

House

House passes concealed carry gun bill in win for GOP and NRA
John Bresnahan, Politico

The House passed legislation to permit concealed carry license holders to conceal a handgun in other states, the first time Congress has taken action on a gun bill since President Donald Trump was sworn into office. The "Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act," a top priority for the National Rifle Association and other gun-rights groups, passed 231-198.

House Republicans Weigh Linking Debt Ceiling Increase to Spending Bill
Kristina Peterson and Kate Davidson, The Wall Street Journal

A group of House Republicans is considering pushing to raise the government's borrowing limit as part of the next long-term spending bill, a move that could help dispatch one of the thorniest issues for GOP lawmakers before next year's primary elections intensify. Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, a member of House GOP leadership and the head of a working group of House Republicans on the debt limit, said lawmakers were considering increasing the debt ceiling as part of the bill funding the government for the rest of the fiscal year, known as an omnibus.

Ryan says Republicans to target welfare, Medicare, Medicaid spending in 2018
Jeff Stein, The Washington Post

House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.) said Wednesday that congressional Republicans will aim next year to reduce spending on both federal health care and anti-poverty programs, citing the need to reduce America's deficit. "We're going to have to get back next year at entitlement reform, which is how you tackle the debt and the deficit," Ryan said during an appearance on Ross Kaminsky's talk radio show.

Kihuen Mum on Re-Election Question
Bridget Bowman, Roll Call

Nevada Democratic Rep. Ruben Kihuen declined to answer questions Wednesday morning about whether he will run for re-election. "We're going to be making another statement here in the next few days," Kihuen told Roll Call as he walked to the Capitol.

Andy Levin running to replace father Sandy Levin in 9th Congressional district
Lauren Gibbons, MLive.com

Andy Levin, the son of sitting U.S. Rep. Sandy Levin and the former head of the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, has announced his bid to replace his father in Washington, D.C. Andy Levin, of Bloomfield Twp., is the founder of a clean energy business and directed worker training as part of his role with the state of Michigan under former Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

John Conyers III was arrested for domestic abuse but not prosecuted
Andrew Blankstein and Alex Johnson, NBC News

John Conyers III, a Detroit hedge fund manager named as a possible successor to his scandal-rocked father, Rep. John Conyers, was arrested in Los Angeles this year on suspicion of domestic violence, but prosecutors declined to charge him, according to documents obtained by NBC News. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office cited a "lack of independent witnesses" and their conclusion that it "could not be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the victim's injury was not

accidentally sustained" while he was disarming her, according to case paperwork.

States

Race where Republican leads by 10 votes instrumental to deciding Va. politics' fate
Fenit Nirappil, The Washington Post

It was "Take Your State Legislator to School Day" in this coastal Virginia city. And two of them showed up.

Independent Greg Orman reshuffles the race for Kansas governor
Bryan Lowry and Jonathan Shorman, The Kansas City Star

A Johnson County businessman with tens of millions in assets took the first major steps Wednesday toward an independent candidacy for governor. Greg Orman, who mounted a failed bid for U.S. Senate in 2014, filed paperwork with the state to establish a campaign committee and begin fundraising.

Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez, a Democrat, is running for governor
Patrick Svitek, The Texas Tribune

Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez announced Wednesday morning that she is running for governor, giving Texas Democrats a serious candidate for the top job with five days until the candidate filing deadline for the 2018 primaries. "Like so many hardworking Texans, I know it's tough deciding between buying food, finding a decent place to live, and setting aside money for college tuition," Valdez said in a statement before filing at the Texas Democratic Party headquarters in Austin.

Gay man who was denied marriage license by Kim Davis is running for her job
Adam Beam, The Associated Press

David Ermold returned to the Rowan County courthouse Wednesday, nearly two years after Clerk Kim Davis refused to give him a marriage license because he was gay. Only this time, he did not want a license.

Illinois governor's race haunted by 2016 presidential primary
Natasha Korecki, Politico

An inevitable candidate. Accusations of a rigged primary.

Advocacy

Lobbyists push GOP in last-minute scramble to save tax breaks
Theodoric Meyer et al., Politico

Lobbyists have launched an all-out effort to save tax breaks and protect powerful industries as the Republicans' tax overhaul lurches toward President Donald Trump's desk. Builders and real estate interests are pushing to save the mortgage interest deduction.

Outdoors industry groups ratchet up Trump criticism
Devin Henry, The Hill

President Trump's decision this week to shrink two national monuments escalated a fight between the outdoors industry and his administration. Retailers such as Patagonia and REI slammed Trump's decision, equating it to theft, while lining up to challenge its legality.

Inside Oracle's cloak-and-dagger political war with Google
Tony Romm, Recode

The story that appeared in Quartz this November seemed shocking enough on its own: Google had quietly tracked the location of its Android

users, even those who had turned off such monitoring on their smartphones. But missing from the news site's report was another eyebrow-raising detail: Some of its evidence, while accurate, appears to have been furnished by one of Google's fiercest foes: Oracle.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

I Believe Franken's Accusers Because He Groped Me, Too
Tina Dupuy, The Atlantic

In mid-November, a Los Angeles radio host named Leeann Tweeden stepped forward to claim that Senator Al Franken had shoved his tongue down her throat under the pretext of a rehearsal for a sketch he'd written. The coup de grace was a photograph of a sleeping Tweeden and the now-senator pretending to grab her boobs for the camera.

Trump, Israel and the Art of the Giveaway
Thomas L. Friedman, The New York Times

I'm contemplating writing a book on the first year of President Trump's foreign policy, and I already know the name: "The Art of the Giveaway." In nearly 30 years of covering United States foreign policy, I've never seen a president give up so much to so many for so little, starting with China and Israel.

Why Donald Trump Would Regret Firing Robert Mueller
Karl Rove, The Wall Street Journal

They came like rapid-fire rifle shots. On Friday, former national security adviser Mike Flynn copped a deal, pleading guilty to making false statements to the FBI and promising to cooperate with Special Counsel Robert Mueller in return for avoiding more-serious charges.

A Message from the Electronic Payments Coalition:

NEW REPORT: EMV adoption is critical to reduce counterfeit fraud in the U.S. Learn how EPC members are developing and implementing new technologies to make your life more secure.

Research Reports and Polling

The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress
The Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) releases the Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR) in two parts. Part 1 provides Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates, offering a snapshot of homelessness-both sheltered and unsheltered- on a single night.

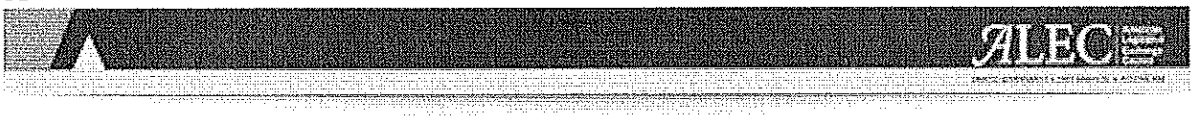
MORNING CONSULT

~~~
~~~

```
    <div style="border: 1px solid;margin: 10px 0px;padding: 15px
10px 15px 50px;background-repeat: no-repeat;background-position:
10px center;color: #9F6000;background-color: #FEEFB3;font-family:
Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;">
      <p style="font-size: 18px;">Unsubscribe</p>
      <p style="font-size: 13px;">It appears that you have
subscribed to commercial messages from this sender.
 To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please <a
href=http://secure-web.cisco.com/1T-
TkWi8evSiDY6gyCNSW9pVdKJOLchNc4r-PEChoUNjBZ3pH_d6bl1Hj4Wl77E-
Fn4X7AATZZH0mk49M54COwAW1Uw05aUlNkxaBJTDeECkXPOQE2UrGKYAAsGOwVLC-
Cshi74T9Q26EKYeRAp_f5vEW6AlnYJTZjZsGCyTMaJYsssHXPYhp5wR7Y3IDe1JOp
-
1eykIk0hEqNgm7uVVuyZWf7qf3Y0jCA1vUnXuKVYmjYw09F524RcriacgUNRhDsbV
PhxG5fxp6YQPxw_IoWQ8eGPw792nEq1g2iINh504My1F7NpOKja91Rc0fttD2SsxI
URenUl6_5-
DBBzvsVrPyyCojFULdVWFkrLeCNhkB4AkpGKUwjYBoi7uIyA7OWpA00mX5SDwCpTv
BSeeU81DeGD9PaCpukwogLm0TYe86lhIRMcPJWUY29Dpos4bgXA9PU1YayngY1hMz
hZMiIA/l169%3Ahttp%3A%2F%2Fclick.e.morningconsult.com%2Fprofile_c
enter.aspx%3Fqs%3D9068a696a842eabe92fe2b69883aee06e00102cd205b0ff
c1f9577e800f6855ed9060ab06b654536ccea43ef7a28f07e6403754c33e2b344
126%3Amailto%3Aleave-fd23157175626b2531492c-fe5c107170640c7e731c-
febe167971670c7a-fe9413727161047c7d-
ffcf14%40leave.e.morningconsult.come>unsubscribe</a></p>
    </div>
```

From: American Legislative Exchange Council
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:09 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Your CIED Updates 1/30/2018

= A



Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development: January 30, 2018

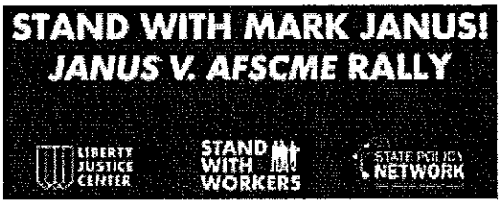

Facebook


Twitter

The Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development Task Force will be sending out monthly e-mails containing relevant articles and links we are following. Please feel free to respond with commentary and/or update us with any additional thoughts.

ALEC in Action

Join ALEC at the SPN and Liberty Justice Center *Janus v. AFSCME* Rally



On **Monday, February 26**, The Supreme Court will hold oral arguments for *Janus v. AFSCME*. Join the State Policy Network and Liberty Justice Center for a rally outside the Supreme Court to stand up against mandatory union fees.

Learn More

Labor Focus

= A

Learn More About "Dues Skimming"

State Policy Network

State governments take an estimated $250 million from Medicaid, Child Care and Development Fund, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients and give that money to Unions. Learn more about "dues skimming" from the State Policy Network

Go to Site

Expert Opinion

Businesses Face Challenges With Impending Wage Hikes

Robert Ordway I Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development

As Americans look to an exciting new year and politcos start gearing up for mid-term elections, 18 states along with 19 localities will be raising their minimum wage. When wages rise arbitrarily for employees but skill sets do not increase proportionately, employers will either reduce their workforces in people or hours, raise prices on customers or just go out of business altogether. Regardless of the option chosen, the entry level worker will feel the negative effects most.

Read Article

Economic Liberty

= A

Dick Carpenter Discusses Occupational Licensing

Russ Roberts I *EconTalk*

ECONTALK

Dick Carpenter of the Institute for Justice and author of *Bottleneckers* talks with *EconTalk* host Russ Roberts about his book--a look at how occupational licensing and other regulations protect existing job holders from competition.

Listen Here

Right to Work Update

Kentucky Challenge to Right to Work Dismissed

The Associated Press

In a legal victory for Kentucky's Republican governor, a judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by organized labor leaders who challenged the state's right-to-work law. Governor Matt Bevin said Wednesday that the judge's ruling confirms the right-to-work law is on solid legal ground and the legal challenge was "appropriately smacked down."

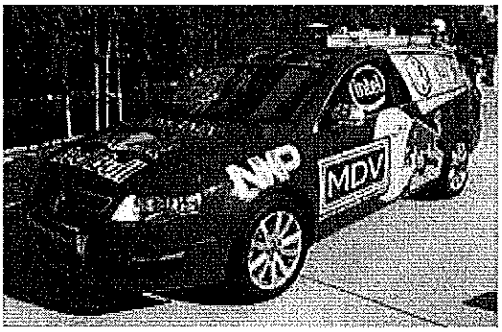
Read Article

= A

Transportation Focus

States Embrace the Benefits of Autonomous Vehicles

Sara Friedman I *GCN*



With officials in Colorado and at the University of Michigan planning to put autonomous shuttles on the roads this year, state and local agencies across the country are working with industry to establish policies and regulations. An understanding of the technology can help municipalities make decisions for their long-term planning purposes.

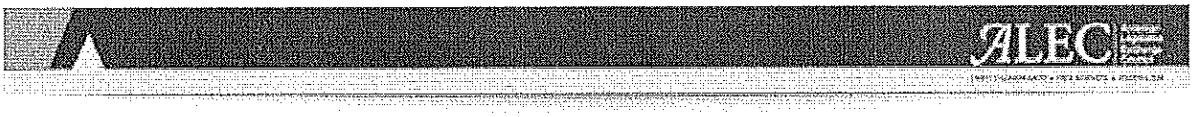
Read Article

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn YouTube

=A

From: American Legislative Exchange Council
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2018 2:17 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Your ALEC Digital Exchange: 2/1/2018

To view this email as a web page, go here.



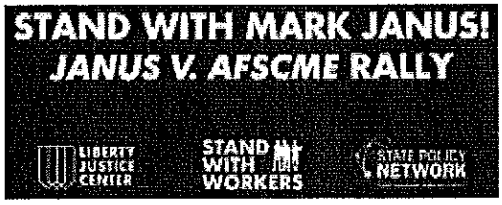
ALEC Digital Exachange: February 1, 2018


Facebook


Twitter

ALEC in Action

Join ALEC at the SPN and Liberty Justice Center *Janus v. ASFCME* Rally



On Monday, February 26, The Supreme Court will hold oral arguments for Janus v. AFSCME. Join the State Policy Network and Liberty Justice Center for a rally outside the Supreme Court to stand up against mandatory union fees.

Learn More

Criminal Justice Reform

ALEC Signs Letter in Support of Alabama's Juvenile Justice Task Force Recommendations

Lacey White | American Legislative Exchange Council

On Thursday, January 25, the American Legislative Exchange Council signed a letter in support of the recommendations recently finalized and released by the Alabama Juvenile Justice Task Force. The recommendations made are both cost-effective and productive, while simultaneously improving public safety.

Read Article

Energy and Infrastructure

Protecting Everyday Life Means Protecting America's Infrastructure

Grant Kidwell I Energy, Environment and Agriculture

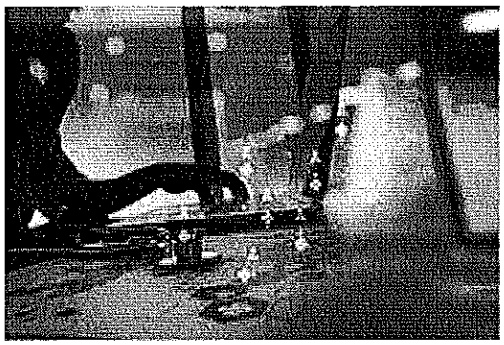
This winter Americans have seen the importance of well-working infrastructure as much of the country has faced freezing temperatures. But it's not always Mother Nature that strains and damages our nation's infrastructure; sometimes, it's human influence.

Read Article

Healthcare

The Amazon Experiment

Brooklyn Roberts I Health and Human Serivces



Earlier this week, Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway and JP Morgan Chase announced a new venture into the healthcare arena. Free markets have historically been the source of the most efficient and cost-effective solutions to problems—regardless of the industry. Experimentation in the private sector is a big step toward improvement.

Read Article

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Honoring Blue-Collar Roots and Protecting Taxpayers

Representative Ryan Warner I PA-52

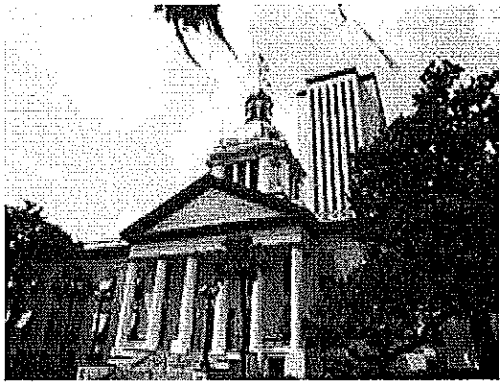
This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Pennsylvania State Representative Ryan Warner**. Warner is a down-to-earth legislator who enjoys rebuilding late-model Ford F-150s in his free time. An outspoken advocate of economic development, Warner sees one of his greatest challenges as "working to change the economy of our region from one that was based on steel and coal and expanding it to more diverse industries."

Read Article

State of the States Analysis

ALEC Analyzes State of the State Addresses

ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform

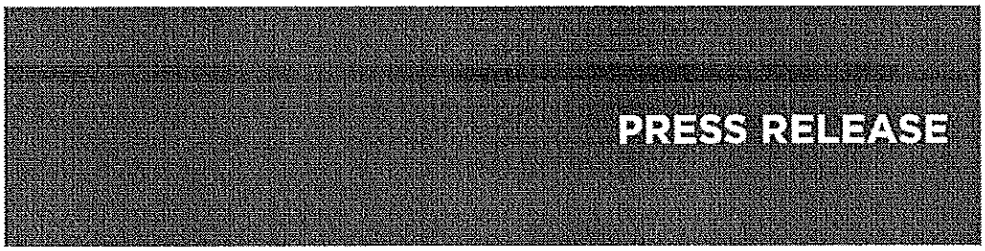


The Center for State Fiscal Reform has been authoring analyses of the State of the State adresses from across the nation. The center is focused on highlighting both strong and weak tax policies outlined in the speeches, and their effects on the specific states. New this week are articles for the South Dakota, West Viginia, Idaho and Florida addresses. You can view all the entries by clicking below.

View Articles

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn YouTube

From: Caitlin Johnson, Policy Matters Ohio
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 1:32 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: RELEASE: Advocates call for policies that support Ohio's workers



= A

Advocates call for policies that support Ohio's workers

Contact: Hannah Halbert
614.221.4505

Later this month, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear Janus v. AFSCME, which threatens the ability of unions to collect fair share fees. Ohio legislators also recently unveiled a slate of proposals designed to give more power to corporations at the expense of workers, including so-called "right to work" legislation, which could greatly reduce the power of Ohio's unions. With working people facing threats at state and national levels, Policy Matters Ohio joined ProgressOhio to unveil a new policy brief, "A way forward: 10 ways to support Ohio's working people."

"So-called 'Right-to-Work' legislation and related judicial attacks like the pending Janus case don't address these real struggles of working people," Policy Matters Researcher Hannah Halbert said. "Unionized workers in Ohio make $4 an hour more than their non-union counterparts, $8,000 more a year for full-time work. Union workers are more likely to have pensions and paid sick days, and less likely to be treated unfairly at work or experience harassment or workplace injuries."

Cincinnati fire fighter and Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters Communications Director Doug Stern said so-called right-to-work laws not only chip away at the fabric of unions, but can make communities less safe.

"Attacks like these on working people and unions are attacks on fire fighters, police officers and all first responders, he said. "Our fire fighters and police officers deserve the right to collectively bargain so that we can effectively advocate for the training and equipment that keep our communities safe."

For decades, state and federal policymakers have chipped away at worker protections. As a result, Ohio's job growth has been weak and the state's wealthiest 1 percent earned more than 19 times the average of the bottom 99 percent of earners combined.

"The decline of unions has significantly contributed to the decline of the middle class as wages have remained stagnant and workers are getting a smaller and smaller share of income," said Wright State University Economics Professor Rudy Fichtenbaum. "Attacks on unions are not about increasing job growth; they're about corporations and the political elite gaining power over workers."

Policy Matters calls for the policymakers to protect workers' right to organize, as well as strengthen the public sector, raise the minimum wage, restore the 40-hour work week, fix Ohio's broken unemployment compensation system and more.

See the press conference on Facebook Live.

Read online

3631 Perkins Avenue
Cleveland, OH | 44114 US

From: The Aerospace States Association Briefing
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 8:00 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: Feb. 20: NASA Officials To Highlight Alabama's Role In Space Program During ASA's Alabama Aerospace Week

The Aerospace States Association BRIEFING

in affiliation with Bulletin MEDIA

Good morning Kirk Schuring

February 20, 2018

ASA IN THE NEWS

NASA Officials To Highlight Alabama's Role In Space Program During ASA's Alabama Aerospace Week.

The Florence (AL) Times Daily (2/16, Corey) reported that NASA officials from Huntsville's NASA officials from Huntsville's Marshall Space Flight Center will "travel to Montgomery on Thursday to spread the word about the importance of the state's role in leading America back to the moon and on to Mars during the Aerospace States Association's Alabama Aerospace Week." Marshall leaders will meet with "elected officials and NASA will be honored by the Legislature with a resolution and proclamation from Gov. Kay Ivey recognizing the agency's achievements."

PRNewswire (2/16) reported the event will take place Thursday, February 22. Marshall Center Director Todd May and "NASA astronaut Tracy Dyson speak at 1 p.m. CST, at Alabama State University's Ralph D. Abernathy College of Education's auditorium, which will be hosted by ASU's President, Dr. Quinton T. Ross, Jr."

POLICY NEWS - STATE

Port Authority Authorizes Name Change, Expansion For New York's Stewart International Airport.

USA Today (2/19, Wilson) reports that Stewart International Airport in New York may soon undergo a name change and $30 million expansion. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey authorized the changes on Thursday. The proposed project will "expand the terminal by 19,850 square feet, adding a customs inspection area to accommodate domestic and international passengers simultaneously at the Hudson Valley airport." Currently, the airport lacks a "dedicated area to process international travelers." The airport would be renamed New York International at Stewart Field, with completion of the project anticipated for 2020. Global Gateway Alliance Chairman Joseph Sitt praised the proposal for its potential to alleviate congestion at New York's airports, which he said will not "change without new capacity," which he said will come through "proposals like the Stewart International Airport expansion along with better transportation, a real and sustained commitment to marketing, and, most of all, more flights and services to attract passengers."

FROM ASA

ASA ALABAMA

Alabama Aerospace Week 2018

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

6:00pm - 7:30pm Joint Reception with the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce- Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery Performing Arts Center Atrium

Wednesday, February 21. 2018

6:00pm - 8:00pm NASA/Legislative Reception- Irish Bred Pub

Thursday (NASA DAY), February 22, 2018

8:30am - 2:00pm Exhibits on Washington Street

Connect with ASA:

POLICY NEWS - FEDERAL

Justice Department Charges Three Men With Providing UAV Parts To Hezbollah.

Reuters (2/16) reported that the Justice Department announced Friday that authorities "have charged three men with illegally exporting drone parts and other material from the United States to Lebanon? 9s militant Hezbollah group." Two of the suspects, Usama Darwich Hamade and Issam Darwich Hamade, "were in custody in South Africa," while the third, Samir Ahmed Berro, "remained at large.ㄱ 0

ALPA, NATCA, A4A Urge Congress To Tighten UAV Regulations.

Air Transport World (2/17, Carey) reported that the Air Line Pilots Association, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, and the trade group Airlines for America have all "asked Congress to amend Section 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012." In a letter from February 13 signed by leaders from all three groups, the stakeholders say Section 336, which blocks FAA from passing regulations on model aircraft flown recreationally, "has limited the FAA's ability to fully regulate model and hobby UAS to the point that safety of the national airspace is at risk." The letter cited a video "that shows a Frontier Airlines Airbus A320 passing underneath an apparent drone while on approach to Las Vegas McCarran International Airport" in clear violation of FAA guidelines for UAV operators.

AVIATION

Helicopter Crash May Be First Aircraft Collision Linked To UAV.

Bloomberg News (2/16, Levin) reported that the crash landing of a helicopter in South Carolina last week "may have been triggered by a civilian drone, which would make it the first drone-related crash of an aircraft in the US." The incident occurred last Wednesday and involved a student pilot and instructor, "both of whom told investigators that a small drone appeared directly in front of them, according to a Charleston Police Department report." The instructor took over the controls and attempted to avoid a collision, during which the tail of the helicopter "hit a tree or brush, triggering a crash landing." The FAA has not confirmed the "possible role of the drone," but the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is "aware of initial reports that a drone may have been involved in the crash and is gathering information on the case, spokesman Chris O'Neil said in an email Thursday.

Israel Successfully Tests Arrow-3 Missile Defense System.

The AP (2/19) reports that Israel has announced it has successfully tested an advanced missile defense system with the capability of defending the country against ballistic missile threats. The Israeli Defense Ministry called Monday's test of the Arrow-3 interceptor a "major milestone" in Israel's development of missile defense systems to guard "against current and future threats in the region." Two previous tests of the system were recently delayed. Arrow-3, developed by The Boeing Company and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), is part of a "multi-layered system" Israel is developing to "defend against both short- and mid-range rockets fired from the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, as well as Iran's long-range missiles." Other components in the system include the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow-2 systems.

FAA Awards Boeing 787-10 Production Certificate.

FlightGlobal (2/16) reported that the FAA had awarded The Boeing Company a "production certificate for the 787-10 on 15 February, the manufacturer says." The approval means that Boeing is officially authorized to produce the new 330-seat airliner. Boeing plans to deliver the initial 787-10 to Singapore Airlines this March.

Gulfstream To Build Service Center At Appleton Airport.

The AP (2/16) reported that Gulfstream Aerospace will expand its operations at Appleton International Airport, building a new $40 million service center that is expected to add 200 jobs. WLUK-TV reported that "groundbreaking is scheduled for later this year, with the building opening in mid-2019."

Reuters (2/16) reported that the new facility is expected to begin operations in the second quarter of 2019.

FAA Approves Boeing 737 MAX-9 For Commercial Service.

Reuters (2/16, Banerjee) reported that The Boeing Company "said on Friday the US Federal Aviation Administration had officially certified its 737 MAX-9 aircraft for commercial service." The approval "affirms the airplane's handling, systems and overall performance all comply with required aviation regulations, Boeing said." Boeing is preparing the aircraft for its initial delivery to Lion Air Group.

GA-ASI Submits Stingray UAV For US Navy MQ-25 Contest.

The Aviation International News (2/16, Pocock) reported that General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) revealed in a "surprise announcement" that it had submitted a "new design named Stingray for the US Navy's MQ-25 unmanned tanker requirement." The company had previously indicated it would submit the Sea Avenger variant of its Predator C UAV for the bid. GA-ASI also released an "extensive list of partners in its bid, including Boeing, even though that company has made its own alternative bid for this requirement." Boeing's Autonomous Systems Division, which includes Insitu, is "playing an unspecified role in the GA-ASI bid." In a statement, the company claimed that its offering "exceeds all of the Navy's requirements, including carrier suitability...at the lowest technical and schedule risk."

Airbus To Reduce A380 Production To "Digestible" Six Aircraft Per Year.

FlightGlobal (2/16, Gubisch) reported that Airbus plans to reduce production of its A380 jumbo jet to six aircraft a year by 2020 in a "bid to sustain its flagship programme while keeping losses from the aircraft's production" at a "digestible" level. Airbus plans to delivery 12 A380s this year, and will reduce production to eight aircraft in 2019. Airbus CEO Tom Enders said that the rate of six aircraft represents the "minimum" volume at which production could be maintained with a 歹 0reasonable level of efficiency." Enders added, "It doesn't mean we are still making money on that, but the losses that such a low rate would produce are certainly digestible." However, Enders said that this level of production represents "rock bottom,歹 0 and is "clearly not where we want to leave it," and said that he anticipates additional A380 orders from existing or new operators.

Airbus: Initial Details Of Franco-German Fighter To Emerge Later In 2018.

Reuters (2/16, Siebold) reported that the initial details of a "planned Franco-German program to develop a next-generation fighter jet should emerge in the second half of 2018, the head of Airbus's defense unit told Reuters on Friday.= 2 Dirk Hoke "said France and Germany would work out in coming months how to proceed with the program, including whether to bring in an additional partner country, such as Britain."
= A

Air France Reports Strong Earnings In Fourth Quarter.

The Financial Times (2/16, White, Subscription Publication) reported that Air France-KLM reported strong passenger numbers and load factor in its fourth quarter earnings, but reported losses for the year due to a pension deal.

SPACE

Pence To Tour Kennedy Space Center, Lead National Space Council Meeting In Florida Visit.

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (2/19, Leary) reports that Vice President Pence will visit Florida on Tuesday and Wednesday to tour the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station launch facilities, participate in a commercial spaceflight federal reception, and head the second meeting of the National Space Council at NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC). The Wednesday meeting – titled "Moon, Mars, and Worlds Beyond: Winning the Next Frontier" – "will include testimonials from leaders in the civil, commercial, and national security sectors about the importance of the United States' space enterprise," according to a White House release. Pence then will tour KSC before departing.

The Washington Examiner (2/19, Giaritelli) reports that the names of the companies participating in the meeting "have not been released and the vice president's office did not respond to a request for comment."

Industry Battles Over Hosting Reception For National Space Council. The Washington Post (2/16, Davenport) reported that after it became known that the Commercial Spaceflight Federation – of which SpaceX is a member – would host a reception for the second meeting of the National Space Council, Lockheed Martin and The Boeing Company "complained to the White House, which agreed that they, too, should host the reception." One industry official said that "we wanted to make sure the entirety of the industry was represented to the council and not just a subset." The event was intended to take place at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Visitor Complex, but as the event "grew in size," it is "now being hosted by the Aerospace Industries Association, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Coalition for Deep Space Exploration, as well as the Commercial Spaceflight Federation."

NASA Certifies SpaceX's Falcon 9 Rockets For Science Missions.

SPACE (2/19, Foust) reports that NASA has certified the "current version of the SpaceX Falcon 9" to launch selected categories of science missions. NASA "disclosed the certification in its full fiscal year 2019 budget proposal, released Feb. 14, in a section about NASA's Launch Services Program (LSP)." The budget stated that SpaceX had successfully completed "Category 2" certification for the Falcon 9 ⅔ 0Full Thrust," which "supports the launch of the NASA Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission in March 2018." NASA spokesperson Cheryl Warned confirmed Category 2 certification had been received for the rocket. Category 2 certification covers "medium risk" missions, and requires between one to three successful missions to qualify for the missions, "depending on the vehicle's heritage and level of NASA insight." The LSP is also conducting "preliminary activities" for certifying the Orbital ATK Antares launch vehicle, according to the documents. The program has also "started certification discussions regarding vehicles still in development, including Blue Origin's New Glenn, Orbital ATK's Next General Launch and United Launch Alliance's Vulcan."

Launch Of SpaceX Satellite Internet Payload Delayed To Wednesday.

The AP (2/17) reported that a SpaceX satellite launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California has been delayed 歹 0due to the need for more inspections." A Falcon 9 rocket was originally intended to launch a payload of two SpaceX test satellites on Sunday evening, but the launch is now targeted for Wednesday.

CNBC (2/17, Sheetz) reported that the SpaceX Starlink constellation, if fully deployed, would become the largest current satellite network. The largest "existing constellation is built by Iridium, with the company halfway through launching its new 75 Iridium Next satellites to space, set to finish deployment in the next year.? D The Starlink constellation is currently under consideration by the FCC.= A

The Washington Post (2/16, Fung) reported that the satellites are "part of a years-long plan by chief executive Elon Musk to create a fleet of orbiting devices to blanket the globe in wireless broadband connectivity." The satellites will use radio frequencies "known for their low-lag physical properties," in particular the Ka-, Ku- and V-bands, "with about 4,400 K-band satellites and more than 7,000 V-band satellites." The initial satellites in the network are expected to become operational next year.

Launch Of NASA'S TESS "Planet Hunter" Satellite Delayed.

Florida Today (2/17, Dean) reported that the launch of NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) satellite, which had been scheduled for March 20, has been delayed to no earlier than April 16 after launch provider SpaceX requested more time "for hardware readiness and to meet NASA launch service mission requirements." The mission must launch no later than June. TESS is designed to "discover thousands" of exoplanets, and will "scan an area of sky 350 times larger than that covered by NASA's Kepler and K2 missions that have confirmed roughly 2,500 exoplanets" in a mission lasting at least two years.

Astronauts Complete Repairs To ISS Robotic Arm.

The AP (2/16, Dunn) reported that astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) "wrapped up months of repair work Friday歹 0 and completed repairs on the space station's Canadian-built robotic arm, which had "both of its aging mechanical hands replaced on spacewalks conducted in October and January." The final spacewalk was delayed due to complications with the robotic hand installed in January. Ground controllers eventually solved the issues, but additional delays were caused by the arrival of a Russian cargo vessel. NASA astronaut Mark Vande Hei and Japanese astronaut Nirishige Kanai "accomplished their main objectives so fast that they had time to tackle extra chores," and were able to end their spacewalk early.

US Air Force, Aerojet Rocketdyne Renegotiating AR1 Agreement.

Space News (2/16, Foust, Subscription Publication) reported that Aerojet Rocketdyne and the US Air Force are working to "revise an agreement to support development of the company's AR1 rocket engine, as questions continue about the engine's long-term future." In a February 14 statement, the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) "confirmed that Aerojet Rocketdyne is seeking to revise the Rocket Propulsion System (RPS) award the company received in 2016 to reduce the fraction of development costs the company has to pay." The award currently requires Aerojet Rocketdyne to assume a third of the costs related to the AR1 engine, and the company is seeking to reduce its share of the costs to one-sixth, according to the SMC. In its response, the SMC said that the "Air Force has gained the necessary approvals to do so, if a mutually beneficial arrangement can be reached with Aerojet

Rocketdyne,= 2 and added that the two sides "working very hard to find closure on a restructured agreement." The SMC said that any renegotiation would "still require the AR1 to be completed by the end of 2019."

JSC Director: One-Third Chance Next Astronaut On The Moon May Be A Woman.

The Guardian (UK) (2/17, Davis) reported that NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) Director Ellen Ochoa said that there is at least a one in three chance that the first person to step foot on the moon this century will be a woman. Ochoa explained, "About a third of our active astronauts are women, so chances are at least a third."

KSC Visitor Center To Display Falcon Heavy Side Core Through Tuesday.

Florida Today (2/19, Kelly) reports that one of the side cores launched on SpaceX's first Falcon Heavy rocket will be on display at the space shuttle Atlantis exhibit at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Visitor Complex through Tuesday.

MANUFACTURING

Global Dividends Reached Record $1.25T In 2017.

Reuters (2/19, Masoni) reports that the investment firm Janus Henderson announced Monday that "global dividends rose 7.7 percent to an all-time high of $1.25 trillion (1 trillion euros) last year boosted by a buoyant world economy and rising corporate confidence." The firm said that the dividend increase – "the strongest since 2014 – was driven by increases in every region and almost every industry with record showings in 11 countries including the United States, Japan, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Netherlands, the investment manager added." In 2018, Janus Henderson "expects dividends to keep the same 7.7 percent growth rate to reach around $1.35 trillion, as corporate and economic growth remains strong even in more volatile financial markets.歹 0 Director of Global Equity Income Ben Lofthouse is quoted saying, 歹 0Companies are seeing rising profits and healthy cash flows, and that's enabling them to fund generous dividends. The record payout last year was almost three-quarters higher than in 2009, and there is more to come."

STEM EDUCATION

Reaching Out To Young People Helps To Build Interest In "Smart Manufacturing."

Advanced Manufacturing (2/15) reported that rather than continuing to "bemoan the problem歹 0 of a lack of skilled workers, "manufacturers are taking a multi-faceted approach to bridge the gap – not only for next year but also for 15 years down the road." One part of the solution is "reaching out to children as young as nine to build excitement and get the next generation interested in smart manufacturing." Rockwell Automation Global STEM Ambassador Jay Flores was quoted saying, "At a young age, students are curious. They're asking questions. They haven't yet said, 'I'm not a math person,' so we want to get them before they have those doubts or they lose that passion for learning and curiosity." In addition, "manufacturers also are offering scholarships and apprenticeships," while ? Ccompanies are providing on-the-job training and education reimbursements to deepen and broaden their skills."

Separately, The Hill (2/15, Milliken) reported on a hearing in the House Science, Space and Technology Committee on Thursday that focused on "new programs to help boost the number of science and technology workers in the US." The Hill added that "the Science committee's subcommittee on research and technology heard from educators who highlighted vocational training programs, two-year degrees and community colleges to help fill the gap."

Manufacturing Institute's Lee: US Not Producing Enough Workers To Fill Coming Jobs. The Hill (2/13, Wilson) reported on the various efforts to combat the "skills gap" in the US workforce, writing that "economists, demographers and political leaders are increasingly concerned that the next generation of workers won't be ready to fill millions of new jobs across the country." It added that "the combination of a generational sea change in the workforce and a technological revolution in the economy is conspiring to create a skills gap that could leave jobs unfilled."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **New Mexico Legislature Passes Bill Increasing Confidentiality For Spaceport America Tenants.**
- **Airlines, Pilots, Air Traffic Controllers Urge Congress To Allow UAV Regulations.**
- **Delta Will Buy Bombardier CSeries Jets This Year.**
- **Richard Branson Admits To Jealousy Of Successful Falcon Heavy Launch.**
- **Federal Reserve: Industrial Production Fell 0.1% In January.**

The Aerospace States Association is an association of state lt. governors and state government officials fostering state aerospace growth and STEM workforce development. For more information, please see www.aerostates.org or contact GarelickBell@aerostates.org.

Aerospace States Association (ASA) | 107 South West Street, Suite 510 | Alexandria, VA 22314

From: The Center for Education Reform
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 12:43 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Employee Freedom on Trial Monday

MEDIA ADVISORY
Friday, February 22, 2018

CER

CENTER FOR
EDUCATION
REFORM

CONTACT

Christina Mazzanti, Dir., Communications
christina@edreform.com
(202) 750-0016

Monday: US Supreme Court hears arguments on worker freedom

Janus v. AFSCME decision, whether favorable or not, will have wide-ranging implications for public-sector union employees and education at large

(Washington, D.C.) - On Monday the U.S. Supreme Court hears oral arguments in *Janus v. AFSCME*. The significance of this case cannot be overstated; the decision could potentially restore the freedom of public employees to choose how they want their hard-earned paychecks spent, and might put decisions about voluntary union membership back into the hands of the employees themselves.

According to the Manhattan Institute, the decision can affect 5 million public workers across 22 states including California, Illinois, and New York.

The case results will also have implications for the quality of education we deliver to our children. The teachers unions fight hard to protect mediocrity, even in failing schools, and support policies that keep ineffective teachers in the classroom, a taken-for-granted practice which in turn discourages more quality entrants to the profession.

Union demands for teachers to all behave and comply with fixed rules about how schools are run stifle innovation.

The largest teachers unions in the U.S., the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, are also among the largest political donors of all time, together spending the second most in political donations nationally. Many of the policies and politicians they support, and programs they seek to have implemented prevent children from escaping failing schools and deny parents their due power to determine which education best meets the needs of their children.

Leaders on both sides of the argument will be at the Supreme Court Monday. CER and its leadership will be on site to arrange interviews, and CER Founder & CEO Jeanne Allen will be available for comment. For more, contact Christina Mazzanti at (202) 750-0016 or christina@edreform.com, and for information on location

Monday contact Patrick Korten at (202) 288-4307 or patrick.korten@kortenmedia.com.

###

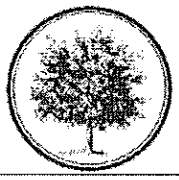
Founded in 1993, the **Center for Education Reform** aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans — particularly our youth — ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.

edreform.com | @edreform

= A

= A

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 3:39 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Robert Alt Sat Down with IdeaStream's Ashton Marra to Discuss Janus v. AFSCME



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

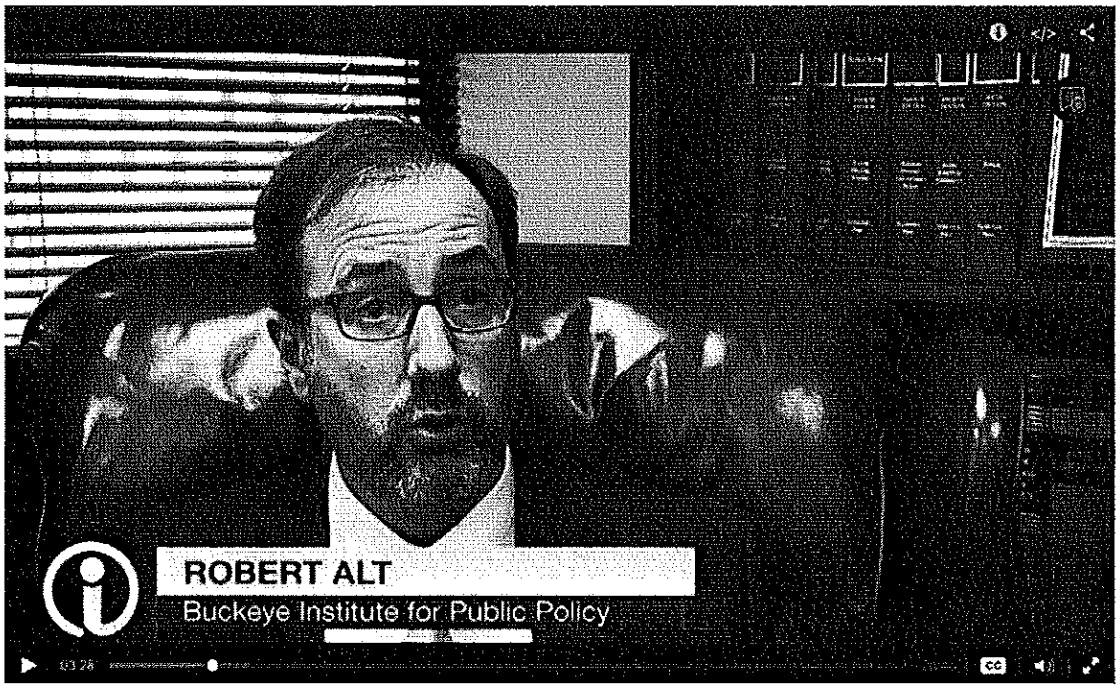
Buckeye's Robert Alt Sat Down with IdeaStream's Ashton Marra to Discuss Janus v. AFSCME

The Buckeye Institute's president and CEO Robert Alt, talked to **IdeaStream's** Ashton Marra about *Janus v. AFSCME* and the impact it could have on protecting the First Amendment rights of Ohio's public employees.

In the interview, Alt said in regards to public employees being forced to pay agency fees, "You don't have a choice then on how it is that the unions use that money in terms of speech, what they advocate for. That's really the core of this case."

Read and listen to the radio piece at: **http://bit.ly/2EMIE8e**.

Watch the television piece at: **http://bit.ly/2CGl1XH** (Segment runs from :56-6:27).



# # #

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

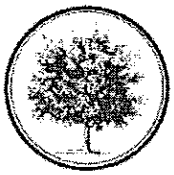
= A

=A

=A

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2018 12:49 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: The Buckeye Institute's Robert Alt: Unions Should Rally Behind the First Amendment Rights of All Public Employees



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or **Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2018

The Buckeye Institute's Robert Alt: Unions Should Rally Behind the First Amendment Rights of All Public Employees

= A

Columbus, OH -- Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement regarding the Working People's Day of Action rally in Columbus, Ohio.

= A

"Today we witnessed the First Amendment in action. Individuals who support unions joined together at a rally to freely express their opinions. But what if instead of rallying and voicing their own opinions, they were forced to pay for the speech of those who oppose unions or else they would be fired? That would be unfair, not to mention violate the First

Amendment. Mark Janus and public employees in many states including Ohio face exactly that kind of predicament.

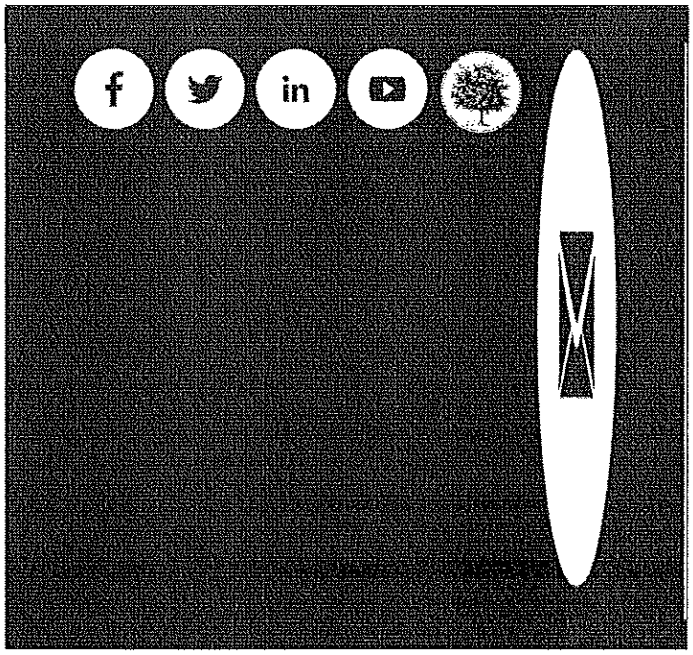
"On Monday, we will once again watch the robust protections of our constitutional system in action as Mr. Janus' case is heard before the Supreme Court of the United States. If Mr. Janus prevails, public employees will no longer be forced to pay for political speech with which they disagree, thus ending the violation of their First Amendment rights.

"While some claim *Janus v. AFSCME* is an attempt to weaken unions, The Buckeye Institute filed an amicus brief demonstrating that unions can still **thrive without compulsory dues**. What will change if Mr. Janus prevails is that our hard-working public servants, even those who disagree with the unions, will have their First Amendment rights protected and respected. And that is something all of us should rally behind."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

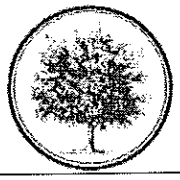
The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

=A

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 1:39 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: ICYMI: In a piece for National Review Buckeye's Robert Alt looks the funding of Janus v. AFSCME



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In a **piece for National Review**, Buckeye's Robert Alt looks at the funding of *Janus v. AFSCME*, saying, "What is surprising is the fact that Mark Janus is personally funding a cadre of high-priced lawyers with one goal: making sure that Mark *loses* his case."

NATIONAL REVIEW

The Money Behind *Janus*: It's Deja vu All Over Again

National Review
By Robert Alt
February 26, 2018

This morning, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*. The case asks a similar question to one raised just two years ago in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* - namely whether forcing a public employee to choose between subsidizing a union's political speech or being subject to termination for failure to do so violates the First Amendment.

Coming so soon after *Friedrichs* - a case in which the Court deadlocked 4-4 after the tragic and untimely death of Justice Scalia - *Janus* has a déjà vu quality to it. The sense that we have seen all of this before is nowhere more palpable than in the public arguments marshaled by some of the more liberal elements of the media against Mark Janus's case.

Bereft of sufficient legal arguments to justify the First Amendment violations perpetuated against public servants, left-wing publications have resorted to attacking the messenger. Mark Janus, a child-support specialist for the state of Illinois, is accused of being an agent of big corporations and billionaires. The proof? The public-interest law firms that represent Mr. Janus - namely Liberty Justice Center and the National Right to Work Legal Foundation - are accused of taking donations from charitable foundations that support free-market policy.

Just as in *Friedrichs*, it is perfectly unsurprising that foundations and individuals voluntarily would give to non-profit, public-interest law firms that provide free representation to their clients. Indeed, public-interest firms on both the left and the right regularly rely on charitable donations to carry out their work.

What is surprising is the fact that Mark Janus is personally funding a cadre of high-priced lawyers with one goal: making sure that Mark *loses* his case. Why would he pay for the lawyers arguing against him? Because he has no choice. Mark is required to pay agency fees to the union, which are used for chargeable expenses like litigation, or he can be fired. And, of course, he is required to pay for political collective bargaining speech, or he can be fired.

This is the real story of the money behind the *Janus* case-a story of forced contributions for political speech. But the story could have a happy ending. The Supreme Court will hear arguments today in a case that could vindicate the First Amendment rights of

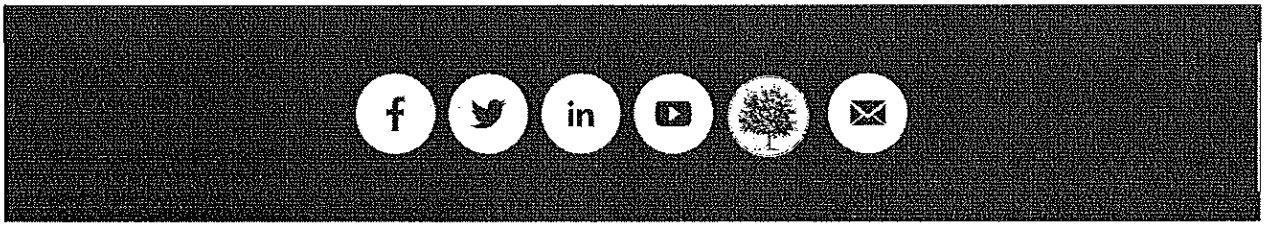
millions of Americans like Mark Janus. For Rebecca Friedrichs, for Mark Janus, and for all the workers who are being denied a voice and a choice, let's hope that the second time is the charm.

Robert Alt is the president and chief executive officer of The Buckeye Institute.

###

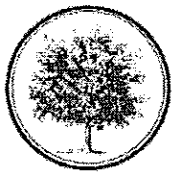
Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 3:17 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: After Attending Oral Arguments in Janus v. AFSCME Buckeye's Robert Alt Reacts



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or **Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 2018

After Attending Oral Arguments in Janus v. AFSCME, Buckeye's Robert Alt Reacts

Columbus, OH -- Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement after attending the oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31* at the Supreme Court of the United States.

"Today, Mark Janus, and all hard-working public employees, had their day in court. Mr. Janus's lawsuit has the potential to be one of the most important labor and free speech cases in the past 40 years.

"Justice Kennedy, who is traditionally a swing vote on the Supreme Court, asked very tough questions of the union lawyers, in which he expressed major concerns about the speech at issue being both compelled and political. Given how frequently Justice Kennedy is in the majority, his questions have to be a cause of concern for those seeking to continue the practice of forcing public servants to pay for union speech with which they may disagree.

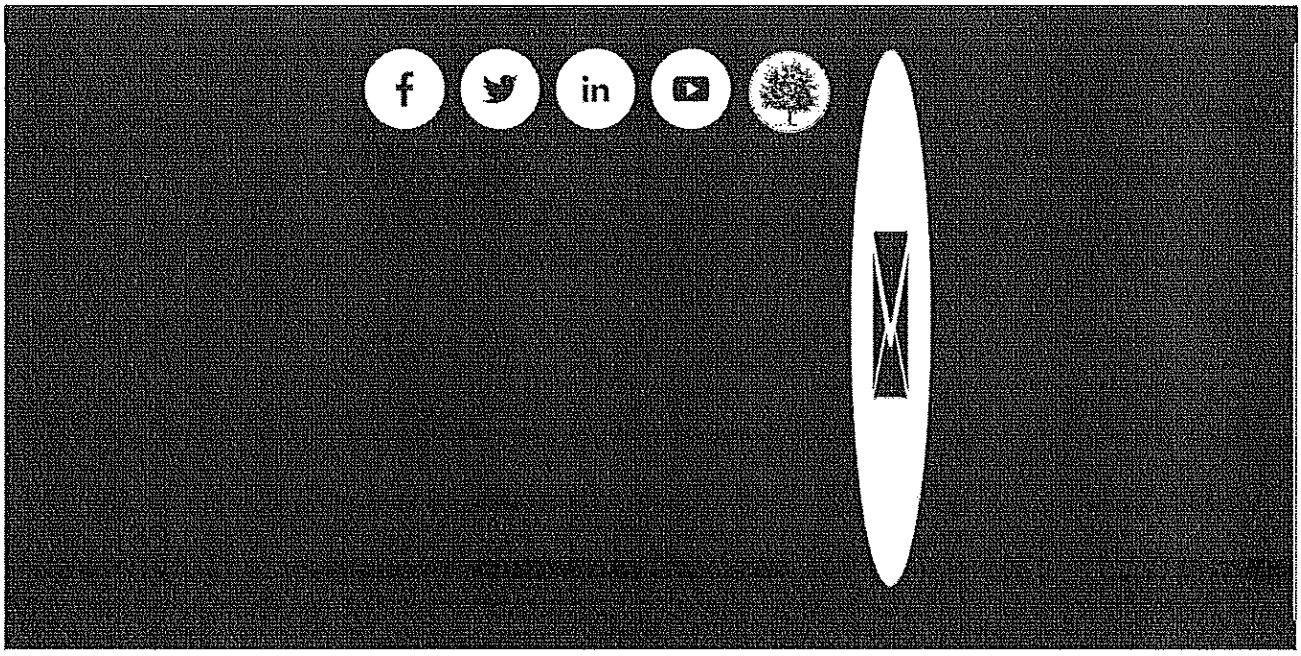
"What Mark, and others before him have done is not easy. Standing up for your rights and the rights of others is rarely an easy thing to do, but it must be done. It is immoral for the government to force hard-working public servants to pay for political speech with which they disagree under the threat of being fired. It is also unconstitutional."

The Buckeye Institute **filed briefs** with the Supreme Court of the United States supporting the free speech rights of public employees like Mr. Janus.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

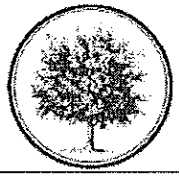
The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



=A
=A

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 5:11 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Buckeye Stands with Mark Janus at the U.S. Supreme Court Today



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Buckeye's Robert Alt, Rea Hederman, and Lisa Gates traveled to Washington, DC, for the oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*, and a rally in support of Mark Janus and hard-working public employees this morning.

Robert Alt (center) with Mark Janus and Rebecca Friedrichs outside the U.S. Supreme Court after oral arguments.

Before they left, **Robert commented on the union rally** in Columbus on Saturday, saying:

> "While some claim *Janus v. AFSCME* is an attempt to weaken unions, The Buckeye Institute filed an amicus brief demonstrating that unions can still **thrive without compulsory dues**. What will change if Mr. Janus prevails is that our hard-working public servants, even those who disagree with the unions, will have their First Amendment rights protected and respected. And that is something all of us should rally behind."

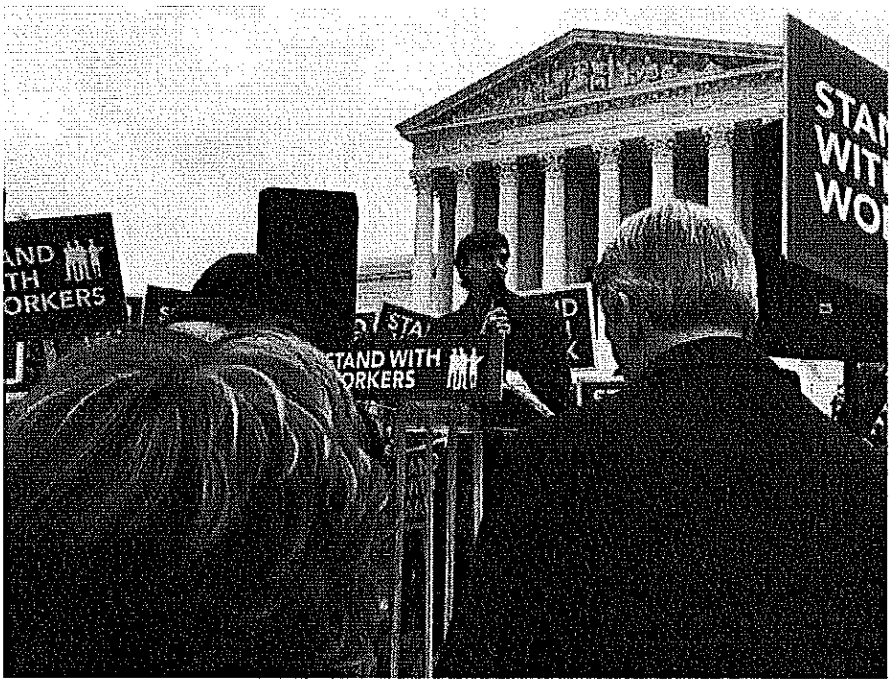
Before getting in line at 5:45 a.m. to attend the oral arguments this morning, Robert wrote a **piece for National Review** commenting on the funding of *Janus v. AFSCME*, saying, "What is surprising is the fact that Mark Janus is personally funding a cadre of high-priced lawyers with one goal: making sure that Mark *loses* his case."

After the oral arguments, Robert **again offered his expert opinion** to the press and his reaction to today's hearing, saying:

"What Mark, and others before him have done is not easy, but it must be done. It is immoral for the government to force hard-working public servants to pay for political speech with which they disagree under the threat of being fired. It is also unconstitutional."

Robert Alt talks with media about the *Janus v. AFSCME* oral arguments and what the case means for public employees.

While Robert was in the courtroom today, Buckeye's Rea Hederman was on the steps of the Supreme Court speaking at the Stand With Mark rally outside the Supreme Court.



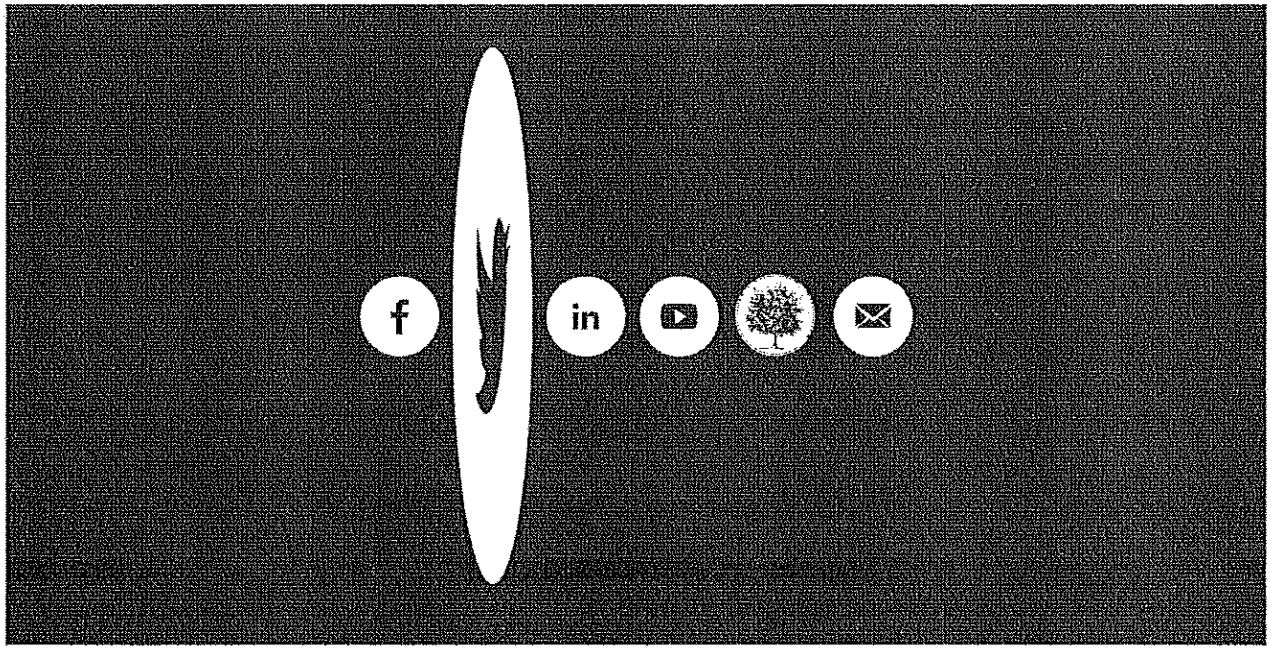
Buckeye's Rea Hederman speaks at the Stand With Mark rally.

# # #

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

Support The Buckeye Institute!



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

= A

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 6:27 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, February 26, 2018
Attachments: 180226dayplan.htm; Feb26Senate.htm; Feb26House.htm; Feb26.htm

OHIO REPORT

View in a browser

GONGWER
SINCE 1906
OHIO'S HOME FOR POLICY & POLITICS

News
Bill Tracking
Legislation

OHIO REPORT
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

$2.62 Billion Capital Budget Prioritizes Projects To Address Opiate Addiction, Related Issues

Cardinal Health Among Drug Distributors Targeted In Latest DeWine Opioid Suit

Nearly $29M In State IT Funding Clears Controlling Board

Adult Charge Stemming From Juvenile Conviction Challenged At High Court

Ohio Groups Debate Trump's Short-Term Health Plan Proposal

Travel Trailer Maker Tops List Of Tax Credits Issued By State Panel

Kasich Declares Emergency As Flood Risks Continue

Cyberattack Temporarily Shuts Down State Websites, Phones

Environmental Group Calls For Setback, Chemical Reporting Changes Following Well Fire

Schiavoni, Williams Plan Firearm Removal Bill; Yost Unveils School Safety Plan; High Court Hears Janus Case; Kucinich Continues Gun Push...

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Event Planner

ACTIVITY REPORTS

= A

House

Senate

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, February 27

Legislative Committees

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce (Committee Record) **(Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.**

HB 159 **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Riedel, C.) To designate May as "Drive Ohio Byways Month." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 195 **WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORTS** (Ingram, C., Seitz, B.) To modify the provisions concerning the transport of persons who require the use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid in nonemergency circumstances. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HCR 19 **HATE GROUPS** (Leland, D., Greenspan, D.) To denounce and oppose the totalitarian impulses, violent terrorism, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by white nationalists and neo-Nazis, to urge law enforcement to recognize white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups as terrorist organizations, and to pursue the criminal elements of these domestic terrorist organizations in the same manner and with the same fervor used to protect the United States from other manifestations of terrorism. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 336 **LICENSE FEES** (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.) To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 250 **ELECTRIC BICYCLES** (Brinkman, T.) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (Committee Record) **(Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082), South Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.**

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Scott Arthur, State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services**

HB 307 **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Gonzales, A.) To designate September as "We Card Month." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 229 **DAY DESIGNATION** (Romanchuk, M., Wiggam, S.) To designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 202 **AWARENESS DAY** (Thompson, A.) To designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide Awareness Day." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 106 **SMOKING** (Tavares, C.) To prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle in which a child under six years of age is a passenger. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 194 **LICENSE PLATES** (Johnson, T., Craig, H.) To establish a program for the issuance of special license plates related to military service and awards. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) **(Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3506), Rm. 119, 10 a.m.**
House Ways & Means (Committee Record) **(Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.**

SB 226 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 22 **TAX LAWS** (Peterson, B.) To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since February 14, 2016, into Ohio law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

HB 507 **TAX CREDIT** (Gonzales, A.) To allow a refundable income tax credit for parents of stillborn children. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 488 **TAX LEVIES** (Hood, R., Becker, J.) To modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

Senate Judiciary (Committee Record) **(Chr. Bacon, K., 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.**

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Mark Wasylyshyn, Michael Staley, Brian Simms and Jay Beighley, Ohio Private Investigation and Security Services Commission**

SB 66 **CRIMINAL LAWS** (Eklund, J., Tavares, C.) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 231 **OFFENDER DATABASE** (Gardner, R.) To provide for a violent offender database, require violent offenders to enroll in the database, and name those provisions of the act "Sierah's Law;" to modify the membership and duties of the Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and eliminate its repeal; to require halfway houses to use the single validated risk assessment tool for adult offenders that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has developed; and to provide that the notice of release from prison of specified serious offense offenders that is given to sheriffs is to be the same as that provided to prosecuting attorneys and eliminate the notice to sheriffs regarding pardons, commutations, paroles, and transitional control transfers of offenders. (2nd Hearing-Possible amendments)

SB 171 **PROTECTION ORDERS** (Hottinger, J.) To increase the penalty that applies to the offense of violating a protection order under certain circumstances and to require electronic monitoring of those convicted of violating certain protection orders to be carried out by probation agencies. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

SB 195 **DOGS LAW** (Beagle, B.) To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

SB 244 **PROSTITUTION** (Dolan, M., Manning, G.) To amend the penalties for promoting prostitution. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Finance (Committee Record) **(Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 11 a.m.**

HB 529 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30,2020. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

HB 508 **OHIO CORPS** (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 378 **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) **(Chr. Young, R., 644-6074), Rm. 113, 1:30 p.m.**

HB 504 **INTERIOR DESIGNERS** (Pelanda, D.) Regarding interior designers. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 263 **OUTDOOR DINING AREAS** (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harborer of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 211 **HOME INSPECTORS** (Hughes, J.) To require the licensure of home inspectors and to create the Ohio Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 433 **VETERINARY EDUCATION** (Kelly, B., Brinkman, T.) To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Criminal Justice (Committee Record) **(Chr. Manning, N., 644-5076), Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.**

HB 457 **DRUG TREATMENT** (Antani, N.) To require that an offender serving a community control sanction or a parolee who fails a drug test for heroin,

fentanyl, or carfentanil be held in jail or admitted to a residential treatment program for up to 30 days. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 391 **ECONOMIC LOSSES** (Merrin, D.) To include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of economic loss as a type of economic loss for which restitution may be granted. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & substitute)

House State & Local Government (Committee Record) **(Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 017, 2 p.m.**

HB 454 **CEMETERY LOTS** (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HR 299 **DRUG USE** (Young, R., Ginter, T.) To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 483 **WEEK DESIGNATION** (Patterson, J.) To designate the second week of October as "Ohio Covered Bridge Week." (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 484 **HEALTH DISTRICTS** (Brenner, A.) To authorize city and general health districts to use credit cards in accordance with prescribed requirements. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 492 **STATE PROCUREMENT** (Gonzales, A.) To establish the women-owned business enterprise program requiring state agencies to establish women-owned business procurement goals. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 493 **MINORITY ENTERPRISES** (Gonzales, A.) To authorize the Director of Administrative Services to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states with respect to the certification of minority business enterprises and EDGE business enterprises. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 500 **TOWNSHIP LAWS** (Carfagna, R.) To make various changes to township law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) **(Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 313, 2 p.m.**

- **Note time & room change.**

HB 382 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (15th Hearing-All testimony)

HJR 4 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (**Schuring, K.**) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (15th Hearing-All testimony)

HB 512 **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT** (**Reineke, B.**) To establish the Department of Learning and Achievement; to abolish the Department of Higher Education, the position of the Chancellor of Higher Education, and the Ohio Board of Regents; to transfer, with exceptions, the duties regarding the administration of primary and secondary education programs and all duties regarding the administration of higher education programs to the Department of Learning and Achievement; and to prescribe certain duties regarding educator licensure, community school sponsorship, and other education programs for the State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Department of Education. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 451 **PUBLIC RECORDS** (**Retherford, W.**) To exclude from the definition of public record under the Public Records Law any depiction by photograph, film, videotape, or digital, visual, or printed material of victims of crime under specified circumstances dealing with the victims' bodily privacy. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 223 **USED TIRES** (**LaRose, F.**) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 10 **PRIMARY ELECTIONS** (**LaRose, F.**) To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB 506 **DOG BREEDERS** (**Hill, B.**) To revise the law governing high volume dog breeders. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HB 469 **TAX CREDIT** (**Schuring, K.**, **Patton, T.**) To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 489 **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** (**Dever, J.**) To provide some regulatory and tax relief to state banks and credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to modify when a creditor can file a claim against an estate, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)

SB 139 **LEGAL MATERIALS** (**Skindell, M.**, **Eklund, J.**) To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 450 **HEALTH BENEFITS** (Antani, N.) To impose review and other requirements on existing health insurance mandated benefits and to establish requirements for the creation of new mandated benefits. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 342 **TAX LEVIES** (Merrin, D.) To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) **(Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.**

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Pamela Mowry, North Central State College Board of Trustees and Jo Ann Davidson and Ranjan Manoranjan, Ohio Casino Control Commission**

SB 266 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30,2020. (Presentation from OBM Director Tim Keen)

HB 168 **CEMETERY REGISTRATION** (Stein, D.) To modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 251 **SUBDIVISION INVESTMENTS** (Greenspan, D.) To increase from five to ten years the maturity period of other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, a county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid (Committee Record) **(Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.**

SB 218 **MEDICAID PROVIDERS** (Lehner, P.) Regarding surety bonds and minimum training for certain Medicaid providers. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)

HB 332 **ANATOMICAL GIFTS** (Antani, N.) Regarding anatomical gifts, transplantation, and discrimination on the basis of disability. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 340 **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE** (Young, R.) Regarding the release of information concerning public and medical assistance recipients. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 233 **COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION** (Thomas, C.) To allow a cottage food production operator to use a firebrick oven located on a patio at the operator's residence for purposes of the cottage food production operation (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 111 **MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS** (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily

transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

House Education & Career Readiness (Committee Record) **(Chr. Brenner, A., 644-6711), Rm. 121, 4 p.m.**

HB 502 **YOUTH SUICIDE** (Anielski, M.) With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in public schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 503 **YOUTH SUICIDE** (Anielski, M.) With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in private schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 318 **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS** (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

HB 428 **STUDENT EXPRESSION** (Ginter, T., LaTourette, S.) Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018." (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB 491 **EDUCATION LICENSE** (Edwards, J.) To require the State Board of Education to issue a substitute license to specified pupil services personnel. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 360 **BULLYING** (Greenspan, D.) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) **(Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.**

SR 342 **COLUMBUS CREW** (Kunze, S.) To urge the investor-operator and chairperson of Columbus Crew Soccer Club to keep the franchise in Columbus. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 221 **AGENCY RULEMAKING** (Uecker, J.) To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof. (3rd Hearing-Opponent-Possible amendments)

HB 226 **FIREWORKS** (Seitz, B., Sweeney, M.) To establish a fireworks study group to review and make recommendations regarding the Fireworks Law, to extend to July 1, 2020, the moratorium on issuing fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, to eliminate, beginning January 1, 2021, the moratorium on geographic transfer of fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, and, beginning July 1, 2020, to impose a fee on the retail sale of consumer grade fireworks in this state and to expand the ability of individuals to obtain 1.3G display fireworks and obtain and use 1.4G consumer fireworks. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 239 **REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS** (Dolan, M.) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 8:30 a.m.

Event Planner

State Auditor Dave Yost and GOP lawmakers news conference on Medicaid compliance, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.
Ohio Lobbying Association Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception, Sheraton Columbus at Capital Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, 4 p.m., (4:00 pm - Annual Meeting for OLA Members; 5:00 pm - Legislative Reception. More info and to register: http://bit.ly/2018_OLA_AM)
Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor $1,000, Host $500, Friend $250 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Senate Activity for Monday, February 26, 2018

INTRODUCED

SB 266 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30,2020.
Gongwer Coverage

SB 267 **SOLICITING** (Brown, E., Kunze, S.) To increase the penalty for soliciting when the person solicited is eighteen years of age or older, to specify that the fine for soliciting in this circumstance is not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, and to specify that up to one thousand dollars of that fine may be deposited into the Victims of Human Trafficking Fund. Am. 2907.24 and 5101.87

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Joint Education Oversight Committeee: Senator Gayle Manning as chair .

DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR

SB 144 **DISABILITIES COUNCIL** (Burke, D.) To abolish the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Commission, Consumer Advisory Committee, and Governor's Council on People with Disabilities; to establish a state rehabilitation services council known as the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council; and to restore staggered terms of office for the employee members representing firefighters on the board of trustees of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

House Activity for Monday, February 26, 2018

INTRODUCED

HB 526 **SCHOOL SAFETY** (DeVitis, T., Sweeney, M.) To authorize a public or chartered nonpublic school to enter into an agreement with a volunteer law enforcement officer to patrol school premises to prevent or respond to a mass casualty event, to provide the parties with a qualified immunity from civil liability, and to provide a tax credit for volunteer service. Am. 5747.08 and 5747.98 and to enact sections 3313.94 and 5747.64

HB 527 **VISITATION RIGHTS** (LaTourette, S.) To allow certain specified persons to petition the probate court for reasonable visitation with an incompetent or ward if visitation between the person and the incompetent or ward has been interfered with or denied. Am. 2111.132

HB 528 **CORPSE ABUSE** (Smith, R., Rezabek, J.) To expand the penalties for abuse of corpse offenses. Am. 2927.01 and 2929.13

HB 529 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30,2020. Am. 164.05
Gongwer Coverage

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Insurance Committee: Remove Representative LaTourette; appoint Representative Lang.

DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR

HB 45 **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Sprague, R.) To designate May as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month."

HB 79 **FIREARMS TRAINING** (Retherford, W., Hagan, C.) To provide for firearms training for tactical medical professionals; to permit such a professional who has received that training and has been authorized by the law enforcement

agency to carry firearms while on duty; and to grant such a professional the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as a concealed handgun licensee.

---

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

Volume #87, Report #38 -- Monday, February 26, 2018

$2.62 Billion Capital Budget Prioritizes Projects To Address Opiate Addiction, Related Issues

The General Assembly is doubling its prior financial commitments for behavioral and mental health infrastructure in the capital appropriations budget that was introduced Monday.

The bill includes $2.62 billion in new spending on bricks-and-mortar projects as well as a yet-to-be-disclosed amount of reappropriations for ongoing capital projects approved in prior biennia. The bill covers spending in Fiscal Years 2019-2020.

Companion House and Senate measures (HB 529 & SB 266) allocate $222 million for health and human services, developmental disabilities, mental health, addiction treatment and women's health initiative facilities over the next two fiscal years.

The fast-tracked budget, which will receive first hearings in both chambers on Tuesday, also includes $150 million in community projects - $20 million more than the original funding target - $600 million for school facilities, $514 million for local infrastructure projects and $483 million for public colleges and universities.

The state will issue bonds to fund the spending.

The expanded health and human services support funding was added in response to the growing impact of the opiate epidemic, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said.

"So where in the prior budgets you may have seen a few of these pop up, I think it's on the minds of a lot of people and we all recognize that these are some of the more important issues facing the state of Ohio and these are some of the things we chose to prioritize."

Some of the projects set to receive a chunk of the $222 million are Alvis House and Maryhaven in Columbus, President Obhof said. The respective $300,000 and $125,000 projects would add about 260 additional treatment beds for addicts in Franklin County.

"We see these things throughout the state and not just in Franklin County, in Cuyahoga and Hamilton counties but in some of rural areas as well," Sen. Obhof said. "There are number of requests that are being funded from members throughout the state of Ohio for things like that."

Of the total allocation for such infrastructure plans, $20 million will be provided through competitive grants, which were proposed by Gov. John Kasich. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 12, 2018)

So-called community resiliency projects that focus on expanding spaces for youth programming would receive the funding, said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton). The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and local groups will likely select the recipients.

"We recognize the need there and listened very carefully to the community," he said of the funding dedicated to combatting the opiate epidemic and related issues.

While that area of the budget saw a boost, overall capital appropriations shrunk by about $10 million from the last budget, Sen. Obhof said. He's hopeful, however, that it will have a similar reach.

"We think that due to sound fiscal management and the hard work we put in in the main operating budget last year, we do have the capacity for the bonding and the funding of various projects throughout the state that you see in the bill," he told reporters after the legislation was introduced.

Leaders of both parties in each chamber worked together to iron out the details prior to the measure's introduction Monday, making it ripe for quick passage.

President Obhof said he expects a Senate vote on the House version - which will serve as the vehicle for the budget - in the week before spring break, which is set to begin in late March.

Local projects were brought forward by individual members for consideration while community colleges and universities created their own priority funding packages. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 22, 2017)

"This capital budget will give the legislature a tremendous opportunity to address several infrastructure and construction projects that will generate a positive return on investment for communities all across the state," Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) said in a statement. "I want to commend the members of the legislature and local leaders for their collaboration and commitment to helping improve the lives of so many Ohioans through this legislation."

The capital budget has historically drawn bipartisan support as lawmakers look to support money funneled to projects in their communities. That trend is expected to continue this year.

"As legislators, we review capital budget applications, meet with individuals and organizations and visit project sites. You can't help but become passionate about what we can do to invest in Ohio's infrastructure and improve the community," Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) said. "Although it's unfortunate that we can't fund every much-needed community project that comes to our attention, I am happy with the progress that will be made through the capital budget."

If the capital bill process follows those of prior years, no major changes will occur during deliberations unless there are problems with the bill. The last several capital budgets passed with few if any amendments once they were introduced.

Cardinal Health Among Drug Distributors Targeted In Latest DeWine Opioid Suit

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday announced that he has filed a lawsuit against four drug distributors for their role in the opioid epidemic.

The lawsuit, filed in Madison County Common Pleas Court, alleges that the drug distributors were negligent in over-supplying addictive opioid prescription drugs.

"We believe the evidence will show that these companies ignored their duties as drug distributors to ensure that opioids were not being diverted for improper use. They knew the amount of opioids allowed to flow into Ohio far exceeded what could be consumed for medically-necessary purposes, but they did nothing to stop it," AG Mike DeWine said in a statement.

"And much like the drug manufacturers who continue to fail to do the right thing, these distributors are doing precious little to take responsibility for their actions and help pay for the damage they have caused."

Named in the lawsuit are McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health and its subsidiaries, AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation and Miami-Luken, Inc.

Cardinal Health in a statement said it has been cooperating to "alleviate the public health crisis and save lives" though a multi-state effort led by 40 attorneys general and a multi-jurisdictional effort in Cleveland.

"We are extremely disappointed that Attorney General DeWine chose to go outside of these established processes at this critical moment in time to file this unfounded lawsuit," the company said in a statement.

The company went on to say that it cares deeply about the opioid epidemic and that there must be work toward meaningful solutions.

"This is why we launched our Opioid Action Program which augments our substantial efforts to combat opioid abuse and is providing funds and support for take back efforts, Narcan giveaways for first responders, and grants for communities looking to find holistic solutions to this public health issue throughout Ohio," it said.

"Cardinal Health has made a significant investment in state-of-the-art controls to effectively combat the diversion of pain medications from legitimate uses. We believe this kind of effort and investment, and not baseless litigation, is the way to alleviate this problem."

The lawsuit alleges that the companies fueled the opioid epidemic by distributing enough of the drugs to fill more than 11.8 million prescriptions from 2011 to 2016, amounting to dosages that averaged more than 739 million each year.

The drug epidemic has resulted in annual damages in excess of $1 billion, the lawsuit alleges. Those costs include medical care; treatment for infants born with opioid-related medical conditions; public safety measures; substance abuse prevention; and welfare and social services for the children of addicted parents.

The lawsuit also alleges that more than 7,000 Ohioans have died due to the opioid crisis.

The companies "have supplied and continue to supply quantities of prescription opioids in and around Ohio without taking proper measures based on their actual or constructive knowledge that individuals were consuming opioids for non-medical purposes," the lawsuit reads.

Among the remedies Mr. DeWine is seeking are punitive and compensatory damages.

This marks the second lawsuit the AG has filed against drug companies over the opioid crisis. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 31, 2017)

Nearly $29M In State IT Funding Clears Controlling Board

Controlling Board members Monday approved more funding for state information technology projects after raising questions about performance-based contracts and the state's savings from consolidating services.

The requests from the Department of Administrative Services included one worth nearly $24.8 million for the state's main IT services delivery line item, which has increased over the years due to the consolidation, DAS Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Leymaster told the board.

The other request, for $4.4 million, dealt specifically with a pair of projects involving nine agencies, she said.

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) asked if the state's IT contracts have performance clauses for the timing of delivery or for the accountability of functions.

The request Monday didn't deal with specific contracts, just the appropriation changes needed to cover contract costs, Ms. Leymaster said.

"We'd be happy to see if individual contracts have the type of controls that you're asking about," she said.

Ms. Leymaster told Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) that the projects are part of a broader optimization project that has saved the state more than $160 million since its inception.

The board also approved two significant funding requests from the Development Services Agency to support affordable housing after Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) asked about cost containment measures and access for people with disabilities.

The requests included $13.6 million for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to administer the Housing Development Assistance Program, and $5.5 million for housing assistance programs across the state.

Kelan Craig, director of planning, preservation and development at the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, said the administration has worked to ensure projects are done effectively at low cost.

As for accessibility for people with disabilities, there are specific requirements for projects targeted at seniors and for permanent supportive housing developments, but not for standard affordable housing, he said.

"Let's just watch that and make sure we don't have a problem with that," Sen. Coley said.

A request by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for $1.1 million to replace the emergency generator at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare in Athens was approved after Sen. Coley asked about the hospital's involvement in plans to participate in peak demand emergency programs.

Stephen Wilson, legislative liaison for ODMHAS, said the state found it would only save a couple thousand dollars to participate in the utility's peak demand program, while placing strict requirements on hospital staff.

Sen. Coley said the programs can help other facilities, such as industries and schools, when the power goes down.

"Hospitals around the state are finding great benefits to these programs," he said.

In total, the board approved 82 requests for funding.

Other items approved included: (Agenda)

- $2.9 million - Central State University - for repair and modernization of the Hallie Q. Brown Memorial Library.

- $11.7 million - Cleveland State University - to contract for an addition project at Fenn Hall.

- $1.9 million - Cuyahoga Community College - to buy 12.82 acres of real estate in Euclid for the expansion of the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Academy.

- $1 million - Adjutant General's Department - for masonry renovation and HVAC work at the Hamilton Readiness Center in Butler County.

- $4.6 million - DAS - for administration of the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System.

- $2.3 million - Department of Agriculture - for lab supplies and equipment.

- $1.1 million - Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services - for emergency generator replacement at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare in Athens.

- $1.6 million - Bureau of Motor Vehicles - for federal grants to purchase and install document scanners and update existing computer systems to confirm commercial driver's license applicants provided proof of citizenship or permanent residency.

- $10.5 million - Facilities Construction Commission - for master facilities plan amendments from Elida Local School District and Bloom-Carroll Local School District.

Adult Charge Stemming From Juvenile Conviction Challenged At High Court

Can a juvenile adjudication be used to satisfy an element of a crime committed as an adult?

Anthony Carnes will argue that it can't in a case the Ohio Supreme Court is set to hear Tuesday.

Mr. Carnes was charged with a third-degree felony offense of weapon-under-disability based on a 1994 juvenile adjudication. He moved to have the charge dismissed, but the trial court denied his motion.

The First District Court of Appeals upheld the trial court's decision. But Mr. Carnes argued that both court erred in their decisions.

"Simply put, juvenile adjudications are not criminal convictions and should not be viewed as such. This conclusion is reinforced by the fact that Ohio's juvenile system uses two different approaches, one mandatory and one discretionary, to transfer its most severe offenders into the adult system, and has a process to include an adult sentence with a juvenile rehabilitation for the next most serious level of offenders," his merit brief reads.

"In line with that approach, this court has prohibited juvenile adjudications from increasing punishment for subsequent adult conduct. Given that framework, it is incongruous for such adjudications to be permitted to turn what would otherwise be lawful conduct into a crime. Thus, a juvenile adjudication should not be deemed to meet an element of an offense charged against an adult."

The Juvenile Law Center and the Buckeye Firearms Association both weighed in on the case on behalf of Mr. Carnes.

"Individuals with Ohio juvenile adjudications do not fit into the long standing prohibition on the possession of firearms by felons because they simply are not felons by definition," the BFA wrote in its amicus brief.

The state, however, argues that a juvenile adjudication cannot be used to enhance a penalty, but it can be used as an element of a crime. The state also contends that if the court were to side with Mr. Carnes it would gut the state's law prohibiting the possession of a weapon under disability.

Under the law, "there are multiple means of being placed under a disability that do not include the right to a jury trial: being a fugitive from justice, being under indictment for a felony offense of violence, being under indictment for a felony drug offense, being drug dependent or in danger of drug dependence, being a chronic alcoholic, and being adjudicated mentally incompetent. Just as is the case with a juvenile adjudication, none of those situations carries a right to a jury trial - state," the state writes.

The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office has also asked the court to affirm the First District ruling.

"Persons who commit violent felony offenses are considered bad risks who should not be allowed to legally possess a firearm. The fact that a person who commits the violent felony offense as a juvenile does not make that person any less of a bad risk," it wrote in an amicus brief.

"But Ohio's weapons disability law recognizes that people can turn their lives around and become law-abiding citizens after committing a single indiscretion or even after committing a series of crimes decades ago. That person can legally possess a firearm after following the appropriate statutory remedy; but until that time, the person should not be able to possess a firearm under Ohio law."

Three district court judges will be involved in the case because Justice Sharron Kennedy, Justice Patrick Fischer and Justice Patrick DeWine have recused themselves.

Justice DeWine concurred in judgement only with the First District's opinion upholding the trial court's decision to deny the motion to dismiss the charge.

The high court is set to hear two other cases Tuesday, it reported:

- In *Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation v. Cirino,* it will hear a case involving a Bureau of Workers' compensation beneficiary challenging the electronic payment program because he is charged fees by his bank. The state argues the case must be filed in the Court of Claims.

- A Columbus attorney is facing a six-month stayed suspension for failure to keep and maintain required financial records in the case of *Columbus Bar Association v. Keating.*

Ohio Groups Debate Trump's Short-Term Health Plan Proposal

A Trump administration proposal to expand options for short-term health insurance is designed to give consumers more options in the marketplace without the regulatory burden of current plans.

Opponents say it could lead to more limited coverage and raise premiums for people on standard exchange plans.

The proposal by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, announced last week, would allow short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans to provide coverage for up to 12 months, up from the current maximum of three months.

These plans are not required to meet the federal requirements for individual health insurance, such as providing essential health benefits or coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.

"In a market that is experiencing double-digit rate increases, allowing short-term, limited-duration insurance to cover longer periods gives Americans options and could be the difference between someone getting coverage or going without coverage at all," CMS Administrator Seema Verma said in a statement.

In Ohio, the move will provide more competition in the marketplace for health insurance, said Greg Lawson, research fellow at the Buckeye Institute.

"It's not going to be a perfect fit for everybody, but for those individuals that it works for, this could be something that could work for you, and it would be a cheaper alternative than being forced into the exchange," he said in an interview.

Critics say the change will erode coverage for people who sign up for the short-term plans and drive up premiums for those who need the more comprehensive coverage of Affordable Care Act-compliant plans.

"These short-term plans are likely to be harmful in the long run," said Steven Wagner, executive director of UHCAN Ohio. "Since they may lack meaningful coverage, people may find that their health care costs are not covered or face substantial out of pocket costs. These plans are a step in the wrong direction."

A report by the Urban Institute estimated the change would lead to an increase of 2.5 million people without minimum essential health care coverage by 2019, and an increase of 18.2% in 2019 premiums for ACA-compliant nongroup insurance plans.

The changes would allow people to shop around for the coverage they want, Mr. Lawson said. The Buckeye Institute and others have criticized the ACA exchanges for placing burdensome regulations on insurers and raising premiums.

"In general, what this will allow is you can have more barebones type policies that are more affordable," he said. "I don't think this is necessarily the pathway that we would prefer to see on a permanent basis but given the fact that the affordable care act is still the law of the land, this does give some breathing space."

Mr. Wagner said those requirements ensure people have comprehensive insurance coverage. He called the latest change part of an effort to eliminate coverage requirements created under the ACA.

"The Trump Administration is eating away at the foundations of health care coverage like termites in the foundation," he said. "This change along w the ability to alter the essential health benefits weakens people's access to quality affordable health care."

Travel Trailer Maker Tops List Of Tax Credits Issued By State Panel

The Tax Credit Authority on Monday approved incentives for four projects that promise to create a total of 475 jobs and retain another 1,405 positions, the Development Services Agency reported.

The $2.81 million in tax credits, an estimate that depends on the companies meeting their hiring goals and other criteria, are projected to help trigger $41 million in investments and result in more than $24 million in new payroll, according to the state.

Topping the list in terms of impacted jobs and tax credit value is the $2.325 million incentive for **Airstream, Inc**. in the Village of Jackson Center in Shelby County.

The designer and manufacturer of travel trailers and touring coaches expects to create 280 full-time positions generating $14.8 million in new payroll while retaining $57.2 million in payroll with its expansion project. The TCA approved a 1.874%, nine-year Job Creation Tax Credit for the plans.

The other approved projects (estimated tax credit values) are:

Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc. of Hilliard (Franklin Co.). The provider of claims, productivity, managed care, risk consulting and other services expects to create 109 full-time positions generating $4.3 million in new payroll while retaining $13.4 million in payroll. The expansion plans attracted a tax credit of 1.31% over seven years ($400,000).

Veeva Systems Inc. of Dublin (Franklin Co.) plans 46 new jobs, $3.5 million in new payroll and the retention of $2.1 million in payroll with its expansion. TCA awarded a 1.62%, seven-year tax credit for the project ($355,000).

Modular Assembly Innovations LLC of Allen Township (Union Co.), which plans 40 new jobs, $1.4 million in new payroll and the retention of $7.6 million in payroll. The provider of manufacturing and modular assembly services to the automotive industry was awarded a 1.055%, six-year JCTC ($90,000).

Kasich Declares Emergency As Flood Risks Continue

Two days after Gov. John Kasich declared a state of emergency in 17 counties, areas of Ohio are continuing to grapple with flooding.

On Saturday, the governor issued his emergency declaration in the face of flooding - particularly along the Ohio River, which was expected to crest Monday.

Although rains have stopped, flood waters linger in some areas, closing roads and posing ongoing safety risks. The National Weather Service has said flood warnings are expected to persist for several more days in the central U.S. as "numerous river systems will remain in flood stage this week."

"As the weather and flooding is expected to get worse we're staying ahead of things by taking our readiness up to the next level and declaring an emergency where we expect the worst conditions," Gov. Kasich said over the weekend. "We'll quickly add to those areas as it's needed."

Counties affected by the proclamation include: Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Clermont, Columbiana, Gallia, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Monroe, Meigs, Muskingum, Scioto and Washington.

The state's Emergency Operations Center had been preparing for this round of flooding since at least Feb. 18. That's the day the Ohio EMA Watch Office began providing regular awareness reports multiple times a day to state, local and federal agencies.

In recent days meals have been provided to the elderly by the Department of Aging, emergency management liaisons have been dispatched to assist county-level operations centers, and swift water rescue teams have been positioned.

"Ohioans do a good job of looking out for each other and we're doing it again now also," Gov. Kasich said. "Teams at the local level are hard at work and state teams have been coordinating with them and supporting them over the past week."

Following the Kasich order, the EMA transitioned from assessment and monitoring to partial activation and the state's Joint Information Center was opened. That followed Ohio National Guard deployments to help install flood gates and a flood wall in Scioto County.

In recent days, state entities have assisted in providing sand bags and a water pump to communities in Lawrence County. A major rockslide on Monday closed a portion of a highway in that county, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation. State geologists were on the scene.

"I urge people to stay safe by staying informed, not taking any chances and checking in on your neighbors, especially seniors and families with young kids," the governor said. "Call your local city, county or Red Cross if there's anyone who needs help. We'll get through this as we always do, by working together."

At the same time, Attorney General Mike DeWine has issued several tips to steer residents away from flood-related scams that may arise.

"As people across Ohio assess the damage and start the clean-up process, we're reminding consumers to beware of scams," Mr. DeWine said. "Some con artists travel to affected communities to take advantage of people. They offer to help, but once they get your money, they're gone. After the flooding, we also could start to see flood-damaged vehicles entering the market. We just warn people to be careful."

Cyberattack Temporarily Shuts Down State Websites, Phones

The Department of Administrative Services is making modifications after a cyberattack blocked state websites and phone systems for multiple hours Sunday evening.

DAS spokesman Tom Hoyt said the attack was launched shortly after 5:30 p.m. Sunday and "was addressed quickly and remediated at approximately 9:50 p.m."

"It was not a breach - no personal information was compromised," Mr. Hoyt said.

Several accounts seemingly affiliated with the so-called "hacktivist" group Anonymous appear to be taking credit for the attack on social media. Anonymous-linked users posted screenshots showing error pages that appeared when trying to access state websites.

The attack was a denial-of-service attack, which is a concerted effort in which users bombard a targeted system with requests, thereby overloading and disabling it for legitimate users.

"The attack itself was educational in the sense that we now know how this type of attack is done and we can put in filters and prepare to help us be ready if it happens again," Mr. Hoyt said. This is the first time DAS has grappled with this specific method of a denial-of-service attack.

"These types of attacks can be done in different ways so we're aware of them and prepare for them," Mr. Hoyt said. "This was conducted in a different way, but once you go through that, you learn how it's done and we can prepare for the next time."

It's not the first time the state has been faced with a cyberattack.

Nearly a dozen state websites were impacted last year after hackers posted pro-ISIS messages on state homepages. That "internet graffiti-style" attack, however, was believe to be surface-level in nature with hackers not accessing the state's servers. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 26, 2017)

Environmental Group Calls For Setback, Chemical Reporting Changes Following Well Fire

The Ohio Environmental Council is pointing to a Feb. 15 explosion and fire at a Belmont County oil well as new evidence pointing to the need for increased well setbacks.

But a leading oil and gas group is accusing the council of seeking to block industry development with its latest call for new legislation.

A horizontal well operated by XTO caught fire earlier this month, causing explosions and leading to the evacuation of residents within a one mile perimeter as the well continued to leak methane and other gasses.

XTO has said it has contracted with various companies to monitor the area and oversee cleanup operations. It has also paid to house 100 households who were displaced. Those residing beyond a half mile from the site have since been moved back into their homes.

The OEC said the incident is a "wake up call" demonstrating a need to strengthen Ohio's current law requiring horizontal wells to be located at least 100 feet from rural homes.

"What this incident demonstrates is that Ohio's current setback laws for horizontal oil and gas wells are clearly insufficient and do very little to protect communities from this new wave of oil and gas development," said Melanie Houston, director of climate programs at the Ohio Environmental Council. "Given the frequency of horizontal well pad incidents in Ohio over the past five years, it is past time for Ohio lawmakers to reconsider a safer setback distance."

The group said the incident also shows the need to examine laws requiring well operators to disclose hazardous chemicals to emergency responders. That debate was a point of contention during budget talks last year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 14, 2017)

"State lawmakers also must close the chemical reporting loophole in Ohio law to make sure that first responders such as those responding to last week's incident can get the full accounting of chemical identities during oil and gas emergencies," Ms. Houston said.

The Ohio Oil and Gas Association, however, said 2012 legislation in that arena "created one of the most stringent regulatory programs for chemical disclosure in the nation."

That bill (SB315, 129th General Assembly) was a far-reaching energy mid-biennium review measure that strengthened requirements. But Democrats and environmental groups at the time said it didn't go far enough with its chemical disclosure provisions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2012)

"The bill required chemical disclosure to all first responders, providing access to the information that they need and allowed (the Ohio Department of Natural Resources) to ask for additional chemical information when there is an incident," said Matt Hammond, OOGA's senior vice president.

As far as the idea of increased setbacks, the organization accused OEC and its allies of attempting to use a setback increase to snuff out oil and gas development.

"We have all heard the calls for increased setback distances since 2003 and found that environmental groups have supported setback distances for the sole purpose to offend the property rights of landowners and effectively block oil and gas development," Mr. Hammond said.

Schiavoni, Williams Plan Firearm Removal Bill; Yost Unveils School Safety Plan; High Court Hears Janus Case; Kucinich Continues Gun Push...

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) on Monday announced their intention to introduce a bill allowing for the removal of firearms from people deemed to be an imminent danger to themselves or others.

The proposal would establish an Extreme Risk Protection Order that would allow family or law enforcement to ask a court to temporarily remove firearms for up to one year.

"Family members are often the first to know when a loved one starts showing signs that they're dangerous to themselves or people around them," Sen. Schiavoni, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, said in a statement. "Sadly, there aren't many options available to be proactive, remove weapons and prevent those moments from becoming tragedies. This bill is common sense. It provides a clear process when loved ones notice those red flags."

Five other states have similar laws. In announcing the intention to introduce the measure, the lawmakers cited Gov. John Kasich, who in a recent television interview expressed support for ERPOs.

"I am pleased to see the conversation turn and the mood shift toward sensible gun safety measures in Ohio," Sen. Williams said. "I'm also pleased to see Gov. Kasich supporting efforts to combat gun violence. We know how to reduce gun violence in America while still respecting the Second Amendment. This bill is a step forward in that direction."

School Safety: State Auditor Dave Yost on Monday rolled out a three-point school safety plan centered on securing buildings.

The attorney general hopeful's plan calls for a statewide inventory of security measures at all 5,200 school buildings across the state and a bond-backed program to modify them to create a single point of entry, install electronic zoned locking systems and add video cameras.

The final piece of the plan calls for the establishment of a training program for school staff volunteers with prior military or law enforcement experience.

"We need to protect our kids at school at least as well as we protect our politicians at work," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "This program takes the same proven tactics and technology we use in government offices-and many private businesses-and puts them to work in our schools, where our greatest treasures are."

Janus Case: A day ahead of the U.S. Supreme Court hearing oral arguments in a case that could have far-reaching implications for public sector unions, hundreds gathered on the Statehouse lawn for the "Working People's Day of Action."

The event also comes in the wake of six pieces of legislation introduced in Ohio to revise collective bargaining laws.

"The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus stands in solidarity with labor and working people," Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President and Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) said in a statement. "Right to Work is wrong and has no place in the state of Ohio. Fair labor practices, equitable pay, representation in the workplace and building power through unity are essential to making Ohio stronger, and should be a guaranteed right to all who are willing to work."

Buckeye Institute President Robert Alt said the questioning by Justice Anthony Kennedy during oral arguments should leave union supporters concerned.

"Given how frequently Justice Kennedy is in the majority, his questions have to be a cause of concern for those seeking to continue the practice of forcing public servants to pay for union speech with which they may disagree," he said.

Gun Control: The gubernatorial campaign of Dennis Kucinich continues to put gun control in the spotlight.

In the latest move, Mr. Kucinich's running mate, Akron City Councilwoman Tara Samples, plans to introduce a measure to urge state lawmakers to pass a ban on assault weapons.

"Dennis and I, with the help of more than 2,000 grassroots volunteers, are working to convince every city council and every board of education all across Ohio to support getting these killing machines off our streets," she said in a statement. "I couldn't be more proud that my own community is about to become the first in Ohio to take this step."

New Polling: A Suffolk University/*USA Today* poll released Monday found strong support for additional gun restrictions, including 63% of respondents who want semi-automatic weapons banned.

Another 76% said that people treated for mental illness should be banned from owning firearms and 61% said stronger gun control law and background checks could prevent more mass shootings.

The poll also found that 62% believe schools should be required to have metal detectors and 58% believe there should be a requirement that schools have a armed police officer stationed on campus.

However, just 19% believe the prospects of Congress passing gun-control measures are good to excellent and 25% believe there is a fair chance for legislative action. Another 51% said the chances are poor.

"Voters see a Congress that is deaf to their wishes about remedying gun violence in the United States," said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston

The nationwide survey of 1,000 individuals, which has a margin of error of 3%, also found that President Donald Trump's approval rating stands at 38%, down from 47% one year ago.

"President Trump's job performance ratings have had several ups and downs in the past year, with last March's relatively strong showing coming in the aftermath of a well-received speech to Congress," Mr. Paleologos said. "The bump he got after signing the tax bill in December appears to have been overwhelmed in light of young people challenging him on gun issues and the investigation of Russian meddling in U.S elections."

ODP Training: The Ohio Democratic Party announced Monday that more than 110 candidates took part in its "Main Street Initiative," which provides training and support to candidates.

"What Democrats are seeing nationally, we're seeing here in Ohio, too - the unprecedented energy and enthusiasm of the grassroots is turning into record numbers of Democratic candidates running in races up and down the ballot," ODP Chairman David Pepper said in a statement. "We're proud to support our state and local candidates when they run for office, as we build our bench of great public servants. We look forward to working with our 2018 'Main Street' candidates from now through Election Day and then touting their successes once they're in office."

Governor's Appointments

State Auctioneers Commission: Theresa M. Blocher of Paris for a term beginning February 26, 2018, and ending October 9, 2020.